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MATTHEW BARRETT

You need your ears, bud, so take off those freaking headphones



ELIZABETH
VAIL

"The visual symbol of earbuds has become the silent equivalent of 'la la la, I can't hear you,' because so many people now use them to willingly and publicly disengage from the world around them. Frankly, it's akin to walking around with your fingers in your ears."

It seems that every time someone invents something useful, somebody else comes up with a way to use it rudely. With the invention of cars, we got road rage. Email made nerds accessible outside of the school grounds, and now teachers have to deal with Internet bullying. And the convenience of cell phones means that a 187 people can't watch a movie because some ass in the front row is giving his bedridden grandma an up-to-the-minute play-by-play.

Headphones are hardly a recent invention, but with the proliferation of iPods, Creative Zens, and MP3-capable phones, headphones—along with their red-headed bastard stepchild, the earbuds—have become another infuriating social pacifier that gives people the anonymity (or at least distance) of technology that they need to forgo putting up with other people.

Anyone who's worked in retail recently has experienced the overwhelming frustration of dealing with customers who walk into their store with buds nestled in their ears like brain-leeching alien larva, their faces locked in blank, zombie-like stares, immune to any form of customer service.

And whenever you approach pedestrians with your car, you now need to check for the telltale wires

coming out of their ears that indicate that they are snugly ensconced in their own personal bubble and may therefore not be too interested with the proper use of crosswalks and traffic lights.

MP3 players are wonderful conveniences for passing the time, and there's nothing wrong with jamming out to your favorite tunes at home, on the bus to drown out the ramblings of the crazies, or in the studious silence of a library where communication is already discouraged to promote an ideal reading atmosphere. In public spaces, however, it becomes a problem.

When you're in a place where human interaction is everywhere (and often necessary) and all the senses are engaged, it's time to unplug from whatever *Rent Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* fantasy you're immersed in and instead tune in to the world around you.

It's not very smart to be walking around the outside world willingly deafened. Footsteps, shouts, honking horns, car alarms, chattering squirrels, screams, and sirens all communicate necessary information that music junkies have started to take for granted.

Some cities have actually considered fining people who cross the street while wearing headphones

because folks strung out on Britney Spears' "Gimme More" have proven to be hazards to drivers as well as to themselves—and to music taste in general. You wouldn't walk out onto a busy street blindfolded, would you?

But it's not just a matter of staying alert—I'm talking about etiquette, too. You know, dealing with people. Real people, with faces and bodies to go with their screen names. The visual symbol of earbuds has become the silent equivalent of "la la la, I can't hear you," because so many people now use them to willingly and publicly disengage from the world around them. Frankly, it's akin to walking around with your fingers in your ears.

Buying an iPod doesn't make you exempt from the world around you. It doesn't entitle you to shut down your communication skills. It doesn't require other people to be responsible for you because you refuse to pay attention to reality. Besides, you never know what experiences you could be missing while you're wrapped up in that comforting Snow Patrol haze.

Unplug the buds, engage with the world, and try a few conversations with people without having it soundtracked like an episode of *Grey's Anatomy*.

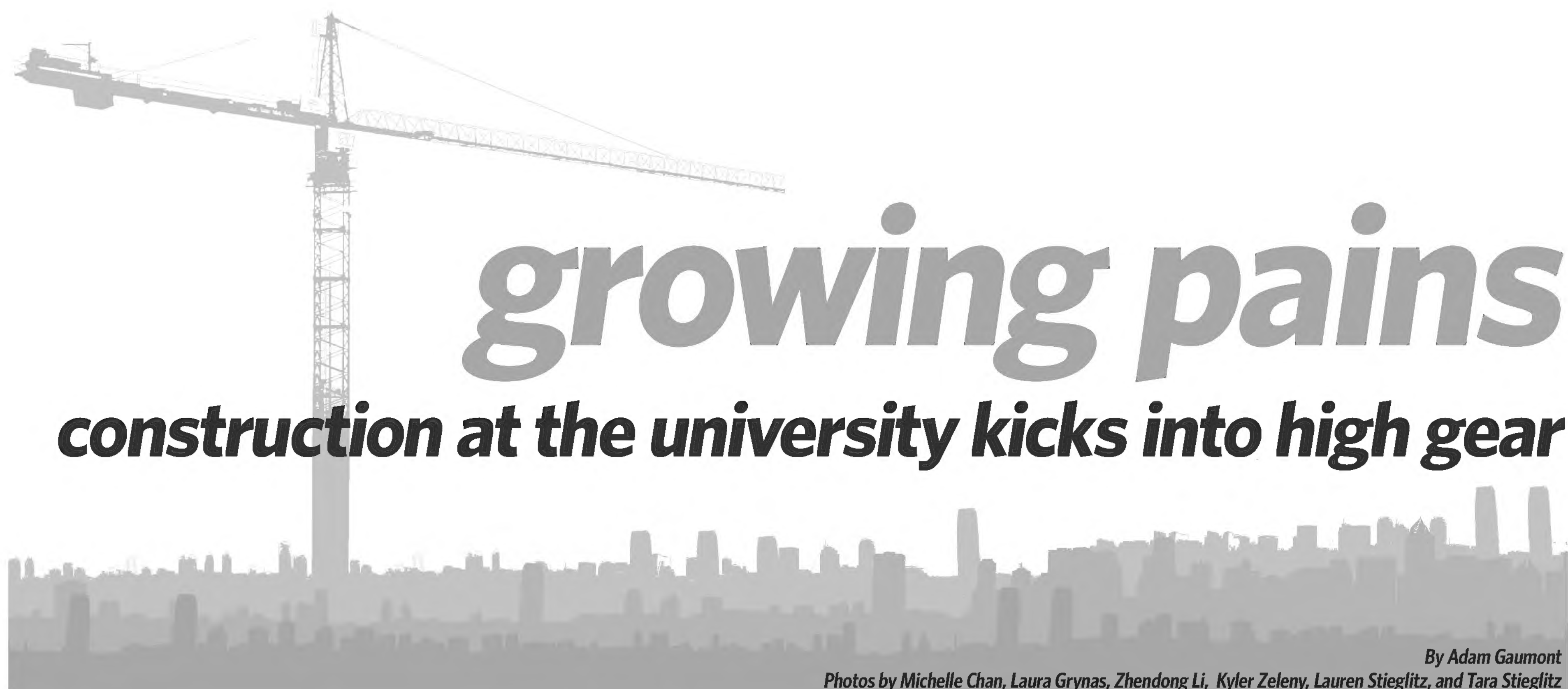
DIAL AND DONATE

GIRLS AND BOYS JUST WANNA HAVE

FUNDRIVE

cjsr FM88

OCTOBER 12-20 2007



By Adam Gaumont

Photos by Michelle Chan, Laura Gynas, Zhendong Li, Kyler Zeleny, Lauren Stieglitz, and Tara Stieglitz



U

NLESS YOU'VE BEEN WEARING DARK sunglasses and a neck brace for the past few months, you've undoubtedly noticed that there's a lot of construction going on around campus. From towering twin cranes to subtle landscaping touches, the University of Alberta is definitely in building mode these days—the only problem is, it's not always clear exactly what's getting built.

Thousands of students pass through areas like that between the beleaguered Powerplant and perennially shut-down South Lab building everyday, not thinking twice about the giant pit at the north end of Quad. Still, if you've ever wondered what happened to the old Bay Building, or are just curious as to what things like HRIF and CCIS stand for, you're probably not alone—so grab some graphing paper and a slide rule, and start paying attention.

prospectiveprojects



**CCIS
NORTH QUAD**
Approved Budget: \$285,000,000
Estimated Completion: August 2011



**EDMONTON
87 AVENUE**
Approved Budget: \$
Estimated Completion:



P

Perhaps the most conspicuous construction site on campus right now is also conspicuously absent—as U of A Vice President (Facilities & Operations) Don Hickey describes it, the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) is just a “big hole” right now. Of course, having not one but two cranes looming over the site at the north end of Quad day and night tends to draw a bit of attention to it as well.

At 65 000 square metres, CCIS, which won’t be open until 2010, is going to be big—but according to Hickey, the recently announced Edmonton Clinic project taking place on the other side of 87 Avenue will rival it in size. In that case, its 65 000 square meters will simply be an addition to existing medical facilities.

A third major construction project currently being undertaken by the University—and the next to be completed—is the \$168 000 000 Health Research Innovation Facility (HRIF), the large complex on the corner of 87 Avenue and 112 Street that’s set to open on 1 November. However, as Hickey points out, construction plans only call for it to be about half-full at this point.

“The original business case never called for a 100 per cent, fully occupied building,” he explains. “The original case was 40 per cent [occupancy]; we’ve added to that, and then it’s expected to phase in [to complete occupancy] over the next five years.”

In fact, HRIF’s initial opening was slated for this past July, but according to Hickey, labour shortages in a booming economy have been putting the brakes on these and virtually all other construction plans.

Finding labour is a “huge problem” right now, Hickey says, which makes finishing a project on time and on budget a major challenge.

But according to Hugh Warren, the University’s director of infrastructure, simply finding labour isn’t enough—it’s finding quality labour that’s proving difficult. The quality of the work in this job market, he says, “is very diluted, so it’s getting to be an issue.”

Apart from labour issues, booming economies also bring strong inflationary pressures with them—an aspect that Hickey and his staff constantly struggle with as well. This aspect, coupled with the University’s well-documented deferred maintenance costs (which are currently pegged at \$656 million), means costs for the institution are sky-high, no matter how you slice it.

“Deferred maintenance is a significant challenge for the University of Alberta,” Warren says. “We’ve got the oldest buildings [and] the biggest square footage [in the province], so it’s a big challenge.”

As Hickey explains, “We think we need in the order of \$80 million a year for ten years to take care of the back-log and to ensure that at the end of ten years, our buildings are all in the appropriate condition.”

However, despite these crippling backlogs, Hickey is optimistic about the University’s current building

“I really like South Lab because it’s going after a sustainable future for one of our oldest buildings.”



and restoration projects. This enthusiasm is shared by University Architect Len Rodrigues, who describes their reclamation of Enterprise Square, better known as the old Bay Building downtown—so old, in fact, that it's designated a historic site by the City of Edmonton. "We had to work around the first two floors," Rodrigues explains. "The exterior of the first two levels was what was designated as historic. So we had to work to the requirements that the City had imposed on the building as a result of that."

Because it's going to be one of our first 'lead' buildings, sustainable agenda. What's really interesting is that it's old, and we're turning it into a really modern space."

LEN RODRIGUES
University Architect

Despite these limitations, Rodrigues is excited about the final product downtown. "The Atrium is a really spectacular space," he says. However, students and faculty will have to wait until at least January 2008 to see it now, as it's become another victim of pushed-back opening dates. Of course, campus has its share of historic spaces as well—historic spaces badly in need of repair. As Warren explains, not only do these buildings need costly regular maintenance, they also need to be retrofitted and updated as well. "These older facilities, when you try to adapt them

to the new functionality, [there's] a lot of technology going in, so now we're dealing with electrical capacity, cooling capacity—they're not in those buildings," he says. "So when you try to add it, it has impacts on architectural and structural aspects. Old buildings have code issues, hazardous material, now you have to deal with that as well. So they become very complex projects." But when it comes to historically significant structures like South Lab—one of the original buildings

built on campus—Rodrigues enjoys the challenge. "I really like South Lab because it's going to be one of our first 'lead' buildings, so it's going after a sustainable agenda," he says. "What's really interesting is that it's one of our oldest buildings, and we're turning it into a really modern space." As an architect, Rodrigues also has his eye on the building across the pathway from South Lab—the Powerplant. "I haven't really studied it that much," he admits. "[But] I think it can be turned into something pretty exciting. [...] It's an interesting structure, and it's just a matter of determining what kind of

uses are appropriate." For his part, Hickey says that the University, working in conjunction with the Students' Union, "[hopes] to have decisions by next spring" as to what to do with the space, which he sees, along with South Lab, as having been traditionally underused. "It's been an underplayed location," he admits. "You have tremendous student flow through [there], and yet, quite frankly, [it] hasn't been ultimately appealing. We've done some of the landscaping this year; we will complete the rest of it next year. So we think it will be turned into something that will be a destination point."

Hickey says that it's difficult for the University to plan too far down the road, however, as they only receive funding from the provincial government on a project-by-project basis. "Unfortunately, we don't control the boom-and-bust—it's called government funding," he says. "We continue to talk to government about getting some certainty around long-term funding, so we could truly look at ten-, 15-, 20-year plans, and have [the] funding [certainty] so that we can actually put these things in black and white on a plan. But when you get funded on a per-project basis, it's pretty hard to have the long-term views on them." Still, Hickey is optimistic that, despite these challenges, students and faculty can expect cranes, trucks, and bobcats to continue to shape—and be a part of—the University's landscape for the foreseeable future. "My personal view is, if nothing happens with the economy, the level you see now you're going to see for, I think 10–15 years."

Check out our feature next Thursday to find out how the University plans on going green.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Darjeeling Limited
Opens 19 October
Directed by Wes Anderson
Starring Owen Wilson and Adrien Brody
Princess Theatre

Wes Anderson has always been a critical favorite, and he's come up with another oddly titled entry in the genre that is his forte: the tragicomedy. The film takes the viewer on a voyage across India, following the story of three brothers who, after the death of their father, went to the Eastern country in order to reconnect with each other. To make sense of everything, the train they go on is called the Darjeeling Limited, a fictional train that is based on a real onv called the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

Carmen
Runs 20, 23, 25 October at 7:30pm
Jubilee Auditorium

For those not up on their opera, *Carmen* is considered one of the classics of the genre and is one of the most performed operas in North America. But this wasn't always the case: Georges Bizet's tragedy was a considered a failure upon its release and was called "immoral" and "superficial" at the time.

For anyone who unfortunately watched MTV's terrible modernized version, *Carmen: A Hip Hopera* starring Beyoncé, those critics would be right. However, it's now being touted as "smouldering, passionate, exotic" by the Edmonton Opera Association. Canadian soprano Lyne Fortin stars as Carmen, the fiery gypsy who steals the heart of corporal Don Jose—and never gives it back.

The Details
With *Zuckerbaby* and *They Were Expendable*
Saturday, 20 October at 8pm
Victory Lounge

It's all in the details, as The Details would probably say. This possibly anal-retentive rock group from Winnipeg just released their first full length album. *Draw A Distance. Draw A Border* is twelve songs of moody, melodic rock that borders on emo but doesn't quite cross into that territory—though, with song titles like "I Asked What We Should Do. You Said, 'I Just Don't Want to Think,'" they're treading awful close to the line.

Art in Transition
Thursday, 18 October from 5–9pm
11618 76 Ave

A recent graduate of the University of Alberta, local artist Alexis Robb-Chute is showcasing her diverse art portfolio and even auctioning some of it off, all from the comfort of her own home. Delving into such categories as wedding photography and abstract paintings, Robb-Chute also does work with an environmentalist bend, making household items into wearable art. Featuring pictures of girls in dresses made of rice packages, backgrounds made of bubble wrap, and Pollock-esque colour splashes, it's all very trippy and very cool.

Dave and Ian Thomas
Monday, 22 October at 8pm
Winspear Centre

Half of the original hoser squad and his just as famous (though less well-known) brother bring their comedy to the Winspear. A Canadian icon, you may remember Dave Thomas as both a star on Second City Television (SCTV) and as Doug of Doug & Bob Mackenzie fame. Despite not enjoying the same degree of fame and recognition, his brother Ian is a Juno-award-winning songwriter and musician who has composed music for a number of acts, and even a few TV shows.

JOHN KMECH
kmeches well in the office



Orange Box filled with golden delights

The latest offering from Valve is a physics-defying, game-spanning package that's more than just a fix

gamereview

The Orange Box
Available Now
Developed & Published by Valve Corporation

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

Valve Software is one of the great companies of their time and trade: while they have a habit of keeping fans in waiting—sometimes for years—their final products are never disappointing.

The Orange Box is their latest entry into their relatively small games library but is bound to take up one of the largest spots on their wall of masterpieces. Packing the previously-released *Half-Life 2* and *Half-Life 2: Episode 1* with three new releases—*Episode 2*, *Team Fortress 2*, and *Portal*, the Orange Box is a value-priced bundle that's got more guts than a Heavy Weapons Guy.

Half-Life: Episode 2

The headliner of the Orange Box, *Episode 2* picks up the story arc of *Half-Life 2*, which last left players speeding away from a Citadel about to go Chernobyl and engulf the surrounding city. With little hesitation, the plot starts as the player awakens from the wreckage of the crashed train barely escaping from City 17 with its passengers intact. Brief reminders appear on the screen to refresh the player's memory of the basic controls, but the pacing never slows down enough to interrupt the flow of a story in the midst of its action.

Episode 2 marks a noticeable shift in Valve's focus with the series, which has set major technical

landmarks with its previous installments. While the original *Half-Life 2* introduced the groundbreaking Source engine, adding whole new level of physics to videogames, and *Episode 1* brought with it HDR lighting and complex AI-character interaction, *Episode 2* seems to spend more time developing the storyline rather than its technology. Although a large part of the action occurs in more open, outdoor environments than the game's predecessors, with an aging game engine, these tweaks are highlights to a bigger picture.

Granted, the unravelling story is an immersive experience, full of thought-provoking questions that beg to be answered. *Half-Life 2* still has some of the most realistic portrayals of human emotion in its AI characters, and with the addition of new characters, the human experience of the game certainly isn't in short supply. While *Episode 2* may not be the highlight of the Orange Box package, it's a decent eight hours' worth of gameplay that leads up to what's sure to be a spectacular climax.

Team Fortress 2

Possibly the most overdue game after *Duke Nukem Forever*, *Team Fortress 2* resurrects itself from the pits of videogame vaporware to kick ass and take names.

Since its early screenshots were unveiled in 1999, *TF2* has undergone a major overhaul in both graphics and gameplay, being treated to an entirely new game engine in the process. All nine character classes from *Team Fortress Classic* return, and purists will be happy to find that little has been tampered with in the game that they've come to love. The most dramatic tweaks—most notably to the Medic, Pyro, and Demoman classes—all feel right and have obviously been done in the name of gameplay balance. Although certain classes play differently than their *Classic* counterparts, none of them feel inherently wrong.

Even more obvious than the changes to the game are the updates to the graphics. Valve had initially planned to make *TF2* ultra-realistic but realized that with the arcade-like gameplay, this was the wrong direction to take the game. The Pixar-esque look of the new

character models brings some tongue-in-cheek Cold War humour to the game, and the sexiness of the details feels right at home. Very few class-based games can properly make their classes recognizable in the heat of a firefight, but *TF2*'s models all stand out instantly and add a psychological thrill to the rock-paper-scissors balance of team combat.

As the name implies, teamwork in *Team Fortress 2* is now more important than ever. While there's a class for every style of player, the game dynamics of *TF2* make for endless hours of online action and offer a fresh alternative to the already stagnant *Halo* style.

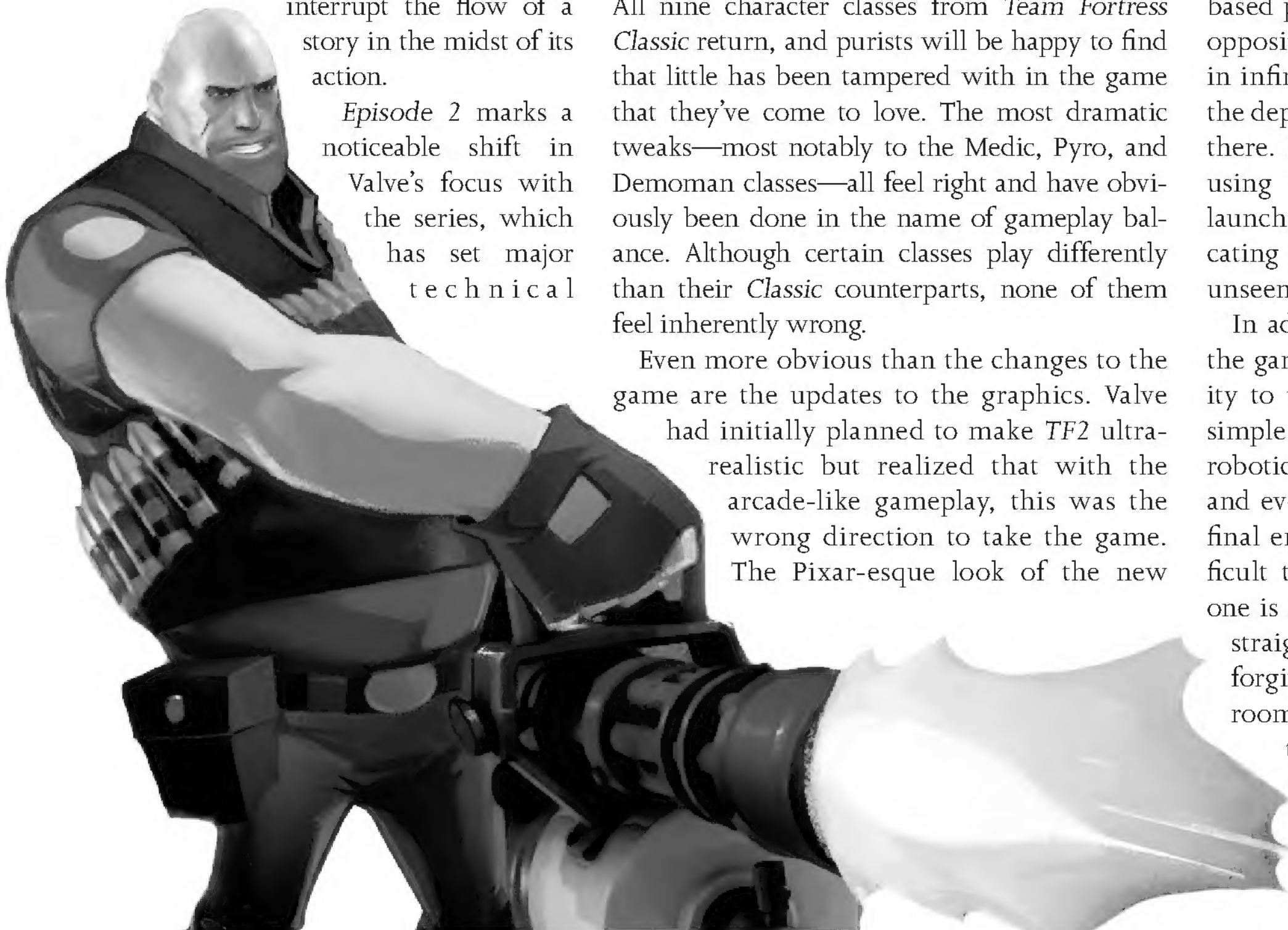
Portal

The smallest of the bundle but making the biggest splash, *Portal* is easily the number-one contender in the Orange Box lineup.

Developed initially as a student project by independent game makers, Valve picked up *Portal* and its team—one of their smartest moves in years. The basic premise of the game places the player as a test subject in a high-tech laboratory with a single tool: a gun that's able to create portals in the space-time continuum. Though portal technology has been experimented with in past games such as *Prey*, Valve has finally done it right, both technologically and gameplay-wise.

The concept of the portals are introduced to the players in easy-to-follow steps, ensuring that they grasp every facet of how portals work before plunging them into complex, physics-based puzzles. The ability to create portals on opposite ends of a room and run through it in infinite regression is quite a mind job, and the depth of the puzzles only goes deeper from there. By the end of the game, the player is using momentum gained from gravity to launch himself across gaping chasms and relocating portals in mid-air to reach previously unseen heights.

In addition to the mind-blowing physics of the game, the writing offers a delicious hilarity to the entire experience. What begins as simple instructions from a non-threatening robotic female voice evolves into snarky taunts and eventual death threats. This leads up to a final encounter that's so entertaining, it's difficult to complete smoothly, simply because one is likely to be laughing too hard to shoot straight. Fortunately, the game is extremely forgiving to newcomers with plenty of room for experimentation, not to mention the desire for replay. Unfortunately, the game only takes three to four hours to complete, so you'll want to play this one a few times over—especially with an ending song as brilliant as this one.





North America calling on Prydz

musicpreview

Eric Prydz

With Dana Bergquist and Luke Morrison
Thursday, 18 October at 8pm
Empire Ballroom

ALEXANDER WITT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Even if you don't recognize the name Eric Prydz, you've heard likely his song "Call on Me." And even if you haven't heard it, you've downloaded the crotch-gyrating aerobics workout music video—the one with the über-catchy modulation of Steve Winwood singing that we all watched with glee in 2004.

Prydz is in town for the first time tonight, and if you've ever had a good excuse to put on your tightest aerobics outfit to go to a venue, this is it: for all we know, this could be a one-time event. Prydz hates flying.

Despite "Call on Me" reaching big-hit status two and a half years ago,

North Americans have been waiting to get a live show until now due to his flight anxiety. Rumor had it that he was going to sail to North America from the UK.

"That was plan B actually," Prydz says from a Montreal lounge. "If I couldn't get on the plane, I was going to get on the Queen Mary [...] to travel from the UK to New York. Finally, I decided to get my ass on a plane and get over here."

To the mainstream scene, Prydz seems like a one-hit-wonder, although he released a remix of Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" called "Proper Education" in 2006. That, however, is more his doing than anyone else's.

"Instead of following up with another similar single and trying to capitalize on the momentum of 'Call on Me,' I went back underground and got back on to what I love to do, which is underground pub music."

Prydz's listeners know that his genuine sound is a little bit different than that hit, anyways. There are a lot of them out there, and Prydz has been pleasantly surprised by his Canadian

fanbase so far.

"[Canada's] sort of the other side of the world, really. The shows have been really good, and the people have been really up for it, and they all seem to know my music, and that's been really fun," he says.

"'Call on Me' came around, and it was one of the records—I knew it was going to be a big club record because we were playing it in Stockholm for two years before it was even big in the rest of the world, and then it just got out of proportion," Prydz continues. "It was number one in twelve countries, it sold over 4 million copies, and it just got really, really crazy."

But he's not just coming to Edmonton to play one track—especially not one that got a name because of a raunchy video. Prydz takes a fair bit of flak about the "Call on Me" music video, and he's ready to move on. He's not the crotch-thrusting dancer; he's the artist in the background.

"I don't really see the point of me trying to show a face to put with the music. I want the music to speak for itself," he says.

Almost, Maine shares 'aurora moments'

theatrepreview

Almost, Maine

Runs 18 October–4 November
Tuesday–Saturday at 8pm, Saturdays
and Sundays at 2pm
Directed by Coralie Cairns, John Hudson, and Wayne Paquette
Starring John Hudson, Jeff Haslam,
and Sharla Matkin
Varscona Theatre

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With winter soon to exhale its icy cold our way, Albertans are no doubt preparing for the change in climate. But in the same breath that bitterly complains about the cold, Albertans will speak in marvel of the Prairies' picturesque beauty: the big blue sky and the stars that decorate it—and then there are the northern lights.

Shadow Theatre's production, *Almost, Maine*, incorporates this phenomenon as one of its central themes. Following several characters in a series of short, interlocking stories, *Almost, Maine* shows the realizations these people make about life and love, with all of them experiencing an "aurora moment" at the same time as the *aurora borealis* appear in the sky.

"The idea of an 'aurora moment,' the idea of when you see the northern lights, [is] when you understand something clearly in your life for the first time. I think all the characters go through that in every scene. It's what makes the play so charming," actor



Jeff Haslam says.

The realizations that the characters make generally revolve around the theme of love: some fall into it, others fall out of it, and more still rekindle old relationships. But *Almost, Maine* takes a unique approach to presenting some of the traditional notions about love: the play takes a literal interpretation of many of these clichés and the characters act accordingly.

"[We see] literal metaphors that appear onstage," Haslam explains, noting that it's then up to the audience to decipher those metaphors.

One of Haslam's characters is a tough, solid man who has a hard time articulating his love for his partner of eleven years. Despite his continued love for her, she no longer knows this, and at one point, she decides to take her love—literally depicted as a giant, fuzzy pink cushion—and

return it to him.

When characters are faced with their "aurora moments" of understanding, they're forced to make some choices. and both Haslam and fellow actor Sharla Matkin agree that Albertans will have no problems relating to the central image of the *aurora borealis*.

With blue and grey costumes and a set that portrays a glowing vibrancy in the cool air, the stage is designed to look like a great vast space—the natural beauty *Almost, Maine* is trying to remind you of as the winter approaches.

"This play is filled with references to the sky, the idea of the sky, characters looking at the sky and stars," Haslam explains. "[They're] ethereal things that you can't hold onto but that make you feel small and cozy."

What Can We Learn From *Survivor*?



The TV series *Survivor* is not so much a TV game as it is a laboratory experiment to confirm many forms of psychological and social behaviour when "normal" people are subjected to physical and mental stress.

The Edmonton Chinese Lions Club (ECLC) is honoured to invite Yau-Man Chan, the popular *Survivor Fiji* contestant, to Edmonton to give a talk on "What can we learn from Survivor?" in support of the Youth Emergency Shelter Society (YESS).

The talk is a layman's view, with insider knowledge of how the nastiness of contestants is a mirror on our society.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 20th 2007

Time: 2pm–5pm (Show 1)

7pm–10pm (Show 2)

Place: South Learning Center

NAIT Main Campus,

11762-106 St

Price: \$25

To purchase tickets online, please go to:

www.edmontonchineselionsclub.org

www.yess.org



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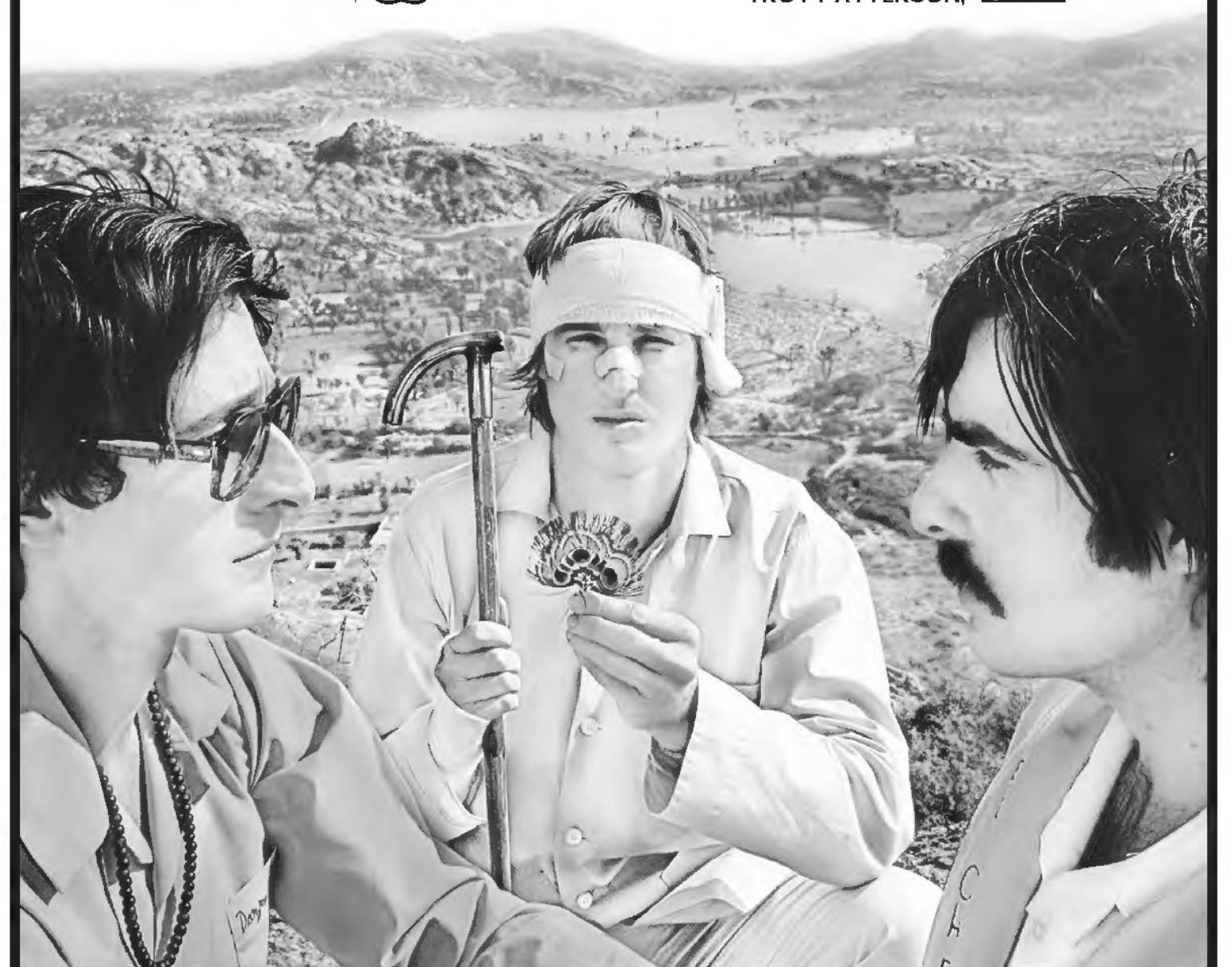
PETER TRAVERS, *RollingStone*

"HILARIOUS."

THELMA ADAMS, *US*

"★★★★★."

TROY PATTERSON, *SPIN*



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Symbolism

Engineers without Borders used a big crane to get their point across. Here at the Gateway we use our photo studio and fancy flashes. Come on up to 3-04 SUB on Fridays at 4pm to find out how. Except not tomorrow—we're going to be busy making pumpkin pie for at least a week.


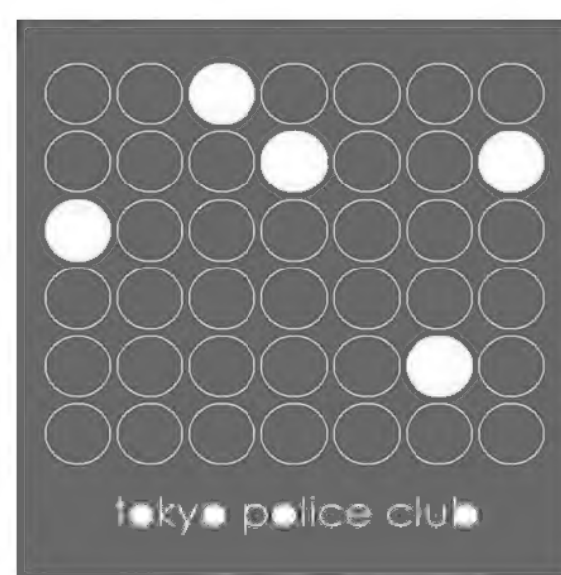
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albumreview

Tokyo Police Club
Smith EP
Paperbag Records

SARAH SCOTT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

An eclectic mix of whizzes and bangs, complete with a dreamy ballad and a couple of quick remixes, Tokyo Police Club's *Smith EP* breaks and clashes, sending them spinning onto the music scene to what will surely be an formidable career.

Of course, Tokyo Police Club isn't completely anonymous—they have made appearances on both *Much on Demand* and *The Late*

Show—yet these Canadian kids continue to most fly under the radar for now.

"Box," the first track on the *Smith EP*, is hyper and jumpy, with its energy echoing onto the second track, "Cut Cut Paste." The third song, "A Lesson in Crime," reveals a soft, poetic masterpiece, and "Be Good" is the fourth and final track, responsible for giving the album

the powerful finish it deserves.

All four tracks are strong, particularly in the way they fit together so easily, complimenting each other's distinct sounds. In addition, the disc includes three videos for their previous songs: "Nature of the Experiment," "Cheer it On," and "Citizens of Tomorrow." These simply provide further opportunities for the band to show off their musical prowess.

With their unique montage of sound effects and song, Tokyo Police Club is a breath of fresh air, but only a quick one; the disc clocks in at barely over ten minutes. Listen closely, or you just might miss this exceptional new addition to the Canadian music scene.



albumreview

The Starting Line
Direction
Capitol Records

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

My rule of thumb when listening to any album for the first time is to try and listen to the entire disc without skipping songs, so when I found myself reaching for the next button less than 30 seconds into the first song on The Starting Line's latest album, it seemed to be telling of things to come.

Direction seems to be a rushed

effort, with several tracks sounding very similar to one another and multiple spelling errors in the lyrics of their liner notes. The first five tracks all seemed to blend together, so it was a relief to get to "Something Left to Give," which stood out musically in an otherwise homogenous, dull album. It opens with some melodic finger picking on an acoustic guitar,

and is by far one of the best songs on the album.

Ironically, the song "Way with Words" contains the weakest lyrics on *Direction*, and most of the songs seemed to lack the depth that The Starting Line's previous albums had. Many of the rhymes on the album felt forced, like the line "I bit off more than I could chew / I've got a big mouth / Yeah, well maybe it's true" in the last track "What You Want."

Even fans of The Starting Line will likely find this album to be disappointing compared to their previous releases. If you still decide you want to give *Direction* a listen, you would be best just to preview the tracks on the band's Myspace page.



albumreview

Nightwish
Dark Passion Play
Roadrunner Records

BEN GRUNEWALD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Dark Passion Play, Nightwish's sixth studio album, reflects their growth as an epic metal band. Flaunting a bigger sound that's darker and better than ever, the Finnish progenitors of symphonic metal fuse solid, rhythmic riffs with colossal orchestral and choral arrangements—think Metallica's *S&M* album on steroids.

This latest album also introduces Anette Olzon (formerly of the Swedish rock band Alyson Avenue) as the band's new vocalist, replacing Tarja Turunen, who was dismissed

after the recording of last year's DVD, *End of an Era*.

Olzon's powerful vocals are a step away from the more operatic sound of Turunen, which is the best move Nightwish could have made. *Dark Passion Play* also gives bassist Marco Hietala more time at the mike, and both vocal changes have brought a stronger edge to their music.

The album contains a wide range of sounds, spanning from the slow-burning single "Eva" and the Celtic flutes of the ballad "The Islander," to the quasi-dance-metal of "Bye Bye

Beautiful" (written about Turunen) and the crushing guitars of "Master Passion Greed." Probably the most accessible track is "Amaranth," which has a huge, catchy, '90s-rock chorus.

The sheer enormity of the orchestration (easily worthy of John Williams) and choirs (reminiscent of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*) is awe-inspiring. The only unfortunate downfall of the album is the utterly pathetic lyrics, which were, judging by the high-school level poetics, written by those for whom English is a second language.

But if you ignore the lyrics, *Dark Passion Play* is almost overwhelming. In a stroke of genius, however, Roadrunner is releasing a special edition, including a bonus track, and a second disc featuring all the songs from the album in instrumental form—the perfect solution to *Dark Passion Play*'s sole problem.



albumreview

Hurt
Volume II
Capitol Records

VANESSA HORNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Though classified as a hard rock album, *Volume II*, Hurt's third album, is actually difficult to pigeonhole, as it shows some of the experimental and folksy sides of the band. Certainly, this isn't guitar, bass, and drums generic rock; by incorporating piano, banjo, violin, and other strings, Hurt has put twelve very distinctive tracks together.

Opening with the soft sound of rain, the six-minute "Summer's Lost" gives a quick introduction to what the

album will sound like, but the band's impressive musical talent really comes out in "Abuse of SID," where they use a combination of time signatures to give it a lilting feel.

The best track is "Talking to God," which grabs the listener's attention with inquisitive lyrics like "How can you talk to God / When you won't talk to me?" The album slows down a bit on the second half, though by no means lagging behind the first parts. The final track, "Thank You For Listening,"

ties up the album nicely with a melodious chorus that seems to directly address the listener.

Throughout *Volume II*, J Loren Wince's vocals show off a range of ability, from the sound of a soft lullaby to hard-rock scream. His vocals are complimented by both female voices and Paul Spatola's guitar solo talent. The whole band puts together a great showing, with a shapeshifting variety of chord patterns and rhythms—sometimes all in one song—preventing most tracks from getting repetitive despite their length.

The only problem with this album is the lyrics. Not all tracks get bogged down by talk of pain, but there is an overwhelming theme of anguish, sorrow, and grief. These guys need a little more sunshine and rainbows—but then again, what can you expect from a band called Hurt?

Unearth adept at converting haters into new fans

The thrash-metal band from Massachusetts is happy to ignore trends towards ‘pretty choruses’ in favour of dark, heavier sound

musicpreview

Unearth

With Darkest Hour, August Burns Red, and Suicide Silence
Thursday, 18 October at 8pm
Starlite Room

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

“My real name is Paul, just so you know—[that’s] my legal name, what the police call me. But my stage name, when I’m rocking, it’s Buz.”

Immediately following this statement, guitarist ‘Buz’ McGrath of thrash-happy metal act Unearth starts answering questions with more honesty than one might expect. Normally, hard rock and metal bands like to wrap themselves up in the serious, mysterious mythology of the image they create. But Unearth aren’t trying to fool anyone with some imposed image: on their website, they call out likeminded bands who’ve replaced “metal breakdowns with pretty choruses.”

“When we wrote our last record, it seemed like there was a wave of that particular style flooding that scene,” McGrath explains, “Lots of bands would start out heavy and add [‘pretty choruses’]—either they were maturing as musicians,

or they wanted to cash in on a quick buck; we were really getting swamped by that type of stuff when we were writing our record—and making [ours] really extreme and thrash metal.

“We’re not knocking that style of music; there’s a lot of bands who do it awesome,” he adds. “But at the time, it was just one after another. Now, I think some of the bands who were flooding the market have disappeared; the good bands who did it well stuck around.”

Unearth formed in 1998, focusing their sound on heavy, rapid-fire guitars licks and everpresent drum rolls. For such a metal sound, their album cover is especially fitting: a medieval-looking coat of arms adored with axes and a shield. It sums up their sound nicely—although, according to McGrath, that wasn’t planned out.

“We’d never really thought about it; it kinda just happened like that,” he says. “Trevor did the lyrics, and he came up with the name of the record. The artist took a lot of that into consideration, and then came up with the record cover, which we all were psyched on.”

Decisions weren’t always so unanimous, however. It was only after a few line-up shuffles that Unearth arrived at their current line-up:



McGrath and Ken Susi on guitar, vocalist Trevor Phipps, and bassist John Maggard. Despite currently lacking a full-time drummer—former member Mike Justain left earlier this year—Unearth had no trouble finding a few to tour with without putting a dent in their set, continuing to provide the particular brand of metal he says they would listen to.

“We’re just playing what we want to hear; if you’re into it, you’re into it,” McGrath notes. “There’s a lot of fans out there who are diehards for their particular band; we’ve toured with Slayer, and obviously they have their dedicated fanbase, [who are] there for Slayer and don’t want to hear anybody else.”

But according to McGrath, the band actually enjoys it when there’s a few

haters in the crowd—it gives him a chance to try and put on enough of a show to convert them into fans as Buz, not Paul.

“You’ll get a couple of dudes hating on you in the front row, but that’s to be expected at Slayer. To me, that’s when I have the most fun. It’s a challenge now: I’ve got to get this kid to understand that what we’re doing is not shit.”

Vimy retells the legendary battle through historically based characters

theatrepreview

Vimy

Running 20 October-11 November
Directed by James MacDonald
Starring Daniela Vaskalic, Mat Busby, Sheldon Elter, Vincent Hoss-Desmarais, Phil Fulton, and Billy MacLellan
Citadel Theatre

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

While James MacDonald may only be the Citadel’s associate artistic director, he gets to take full directing charge of *Vimy*, a World War I drama written by Edmontonian and Citadel Playwright-in-Residence (and U of A grad) Vern Thiessen.

As MacDonald explained, he and many others at the Citadel are particularly excited about hosting this play’s world premiere for a large number of reasons.

“We’re pretty proud of producing this play here: it’s a play written by an Edmontonian, being directed by an Edmontonian, telling a really important story,” he says. “And it’s hard to get a new play produced at the level of the larger theatres. So, I like to say that we’re not

only telling a story of Canadian history, but we’re also making Canadian history by producing this play for the first time.”

The important story that MacDonald makes reference to is, of course, the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which sees its 90th anniversary this year. The play follows the experiences of five soldiers who fought in Vimy, as well as looking at those of a nurse working in a field hospital.

“We’re pretty proud of producing this play here; it’s a play written by an Edmontonian, being directed by an Edmontonian, and telling a really important story ... we’re not only telling a story of Canadian history, but we’re also making Canadian history by producing this play for the first time.”

JAMES MACDONALD
VIMY DIRECTOR

The action is non-linear, first examining the characters’ lives and relationships before and after the battle, and then culminating by focusing on what took place during the battle itself. As with many good stories, some of the characters are based on actual people, MacDonald reveals.

“The nurse character, the central character that it revolves around, [is based on] a war

diary of a nurse who served over there that got Vern thinking about the experiences this woman had and the relationships that she had during the war,” he explains.

“And there was a [soldier] who was a bit of a poet, so Vern based a character on him. Then, there’s an aboriginal character, [who’s] based very distinctly on a biography that was written about an Aboriginal soldier during the war.”

There are also some action sequences in the play and particular staging elements that MacDonald hopes the audience will enjoy. But, he continues, *Vimy* won’t necessarily be akin to the gory, blood-and-guts war movies that have been released in recent years.

“A movie can give you the special effects, the visceral feel of seeing a battle and being part

of [it in that way],” he explains. “But a theatre brings you into it in a more psychological way and plays on your emotions a little bit more, as opposed to your senses.

“I think that [with *Vimy*], people will [feel] the anticipation [leading up to] the battle,” he continues.

“They’ll get a sense of how scared [the soldiers] were in the battle, and they will get a sense of some of the things that they underwent in the battle. So, I think it’s more of an emotional experience than it is [the] sensory experience [that] a movie would be, but I think it will reach people at a more human level,” MacDonald explained.

That said, MacDonald emphasized that there’s much more to the play than just the horrifying drama that unfolds.

“[The audience] won’t just be sitting there, getting hammered away by awful images or awful things that happen,” he says. “[The play] works on a whole bunch of different levels—like a play should, *Vimy* takes you on a rollercoaster of a journey. You’ll be charmed. There are moments of humour; there are lots of moments of romance. There’s a feeling of adventure about a lot of it.

“A good play is something that tells a good story and that makes you understand something about the world, and makes you understand something about people.”

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Football Bears nearing red zone on season

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

It's a do-or-have-the-season-die home game this weekend for the football Bears, and they're going to have to put on their best performance yet if they want to beat visiting Saskatchewan. With only one game left in their season, Alberta (2-5) still have a chance to make the Canada West play-offs, but it will require a win against the eighth-ranked Huskies (4-2), along with a little bit of help from Calgary and SFU.

The Bears have played Saskatchewan, now third in Canada West, once this fall already, opening their season in Saskatoon in August. The Huskies slammed them 45-14 in that game, but U of A head coach Jerry Friesen is confident that his team is better now than they were at the beginning of the season and can give the Huskies a run this Saturday.

"I think we've improved," he said. "Have we improved enough? That's going to be tested on Saturday. We'll find out. The improvement we've had with our football team is significant. Now it's a matter of, as we compete against the better teams in our conference, [making] sure our level steps up to that competitive level of other teams."

Friesen's main concern as the week-end approaches is getting his players to put their training into practice.

"Number one is just execution," he said. "No matter what game, you want to be consistent in your execution. It's a key factor, and especially against [Saskatchewan]."

The Huskies are on the rebound from a surprising and disappointing loss last weekend to the fifth-place Calgary Dinos (2-4). Down by three points with no time left on the clock, the Dinos managed a 51-yard field



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

YOU KNOW, IT HELPS TO BE ON YOUR FEET The Bears ran straight through SFU's defences, but it's unlikely they'll get to see any playoff action this season.

goal, beating Saskatchewan 20-19.

The team will be looking to redeem themselves for the upset this weekend against the Bears, who at sixth place are ranked even lower than Calgary in Canada West.

"Calgary played very well, but we turned the ball over in the red zone, which has been a continual problem for us," Huskies head coach Brian Towriss said. "We fumbled twice on the one and another time on about the 14, and those are mistakes you can't

make if you want to come away with some points. You lose by one in the end, and it's not going to sit too well. But we did some good things, and in some areas, we improved—we've just got to hang on to the football."

Towriss singled out a few members of his lineup who he thinks will be especially effective this weekend, including safety Dylan Barker and wide receiver Leighton Heron.

"Heron is an exciting player. Pound for pound, he's one of the toughest

guys in the league, and he comes to play every week," he said. "Barker makes a lot of plays for us at defence, and he's a big-impact type of hitter."

In order to make the playoffs, the Bears will have to neutralize Saskatchewan, but that's not the entire equation: they also have to hope that Calgary loses to this weekend and beats UBC the next. But since it's out of their hands—and somewhat of a long shot—Friesen is trying to put the post-season pressure out of his mind, and instead concen-

trating on the task ahead.

"I'm just looking at this game and making sure that from our last game we improve from it, our execution level gets consistent, our players play their best football when it's needed," he said.

"That's the important part. Everything else, all the other peripheral things that are going on, it doesn't matter."

The game is at 2pm on Saturday at Foote Field, and on the Team 1260.

Hockey Bears get set to go 'Horn hunting on home ice

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

High-scoring front lines get all the applause, but Bears hockey head coach Eric Thurston is much more interested in what his players do when they don't have the puck. Going into this weekend's series against the Lethbridge Pronghorns (2-2-0), Thurston is devoting a great deal of attention to the Bears' defensive efforts.

"You have to play solid in your own end," he said. "Defence in any league, in anything, wins championships. It's easy to play offence because you've got the puck, but defence is done through battling, position, and commitment."

Alberta (2-1-1) began the season with a pair of losses to UBC, but came back this past week-end with two victories against Calgary at home. Thurston is confident the team will be able to maintain that trend, but says it won't be easy.

"Lethbridge is a very physical team. They come and work very, very hard. They might be the hardest working team in the league," he explained. "We have to make sure that we bring the same work ethic against them—the same commitment to being physical, to battle in all the ugly areas, in the corners, and in front of the net."

That's where he feels a continued concentration on defensive play will be important. The Bears have four strong lines of forwards, he noted, so advancing the puck shouldn't be an issue.

"I think we have four really solid lines that I think, on any given night, can bring some offence

to the table. I think they key will be having all four lines committed to battling and playing defence."

In contrast, Pronghorns head coach Greg Gatto views his own lineup as slightly more of a question mark. With 16 players on the 24-man roster in only their first or second year, the 'Horns are a growing program looking to build on their play-off appearance last season.

"We're very young, so we're making a lot of rookie mistakes," Gatto said. "I'm only graduating one player after this year, so that's a good stepping stone for our future, but we're not just looking at the future, we're looking at right now too."

Gatto says that, despite the fact they have the same record, his team feels like an underdog coming into Edmonton.

"I think there always is an [intimidation factor]," he admitted. "[Alberta's] always a top-end club that's a national power every year. Especially for Lethbridge, where we're just starting to build ourselves up after a long stretch of mediocrity, if you want to call it that. We've got to get ourselves up to that level."

That said, however, they're determined to keep what Gatto calls the "mystique" of the Bears from getting to them. The team has a number of star players of their own. Second-year left winger Mark Shefchyk was the top scorer in Canada West—and 2007 CIS Rookie of the Year—while third-year right wing Jason Roberts was tied for second in scoring. Gatto believes the difference this year is that that top line now has some backup.



FILE PHOTO: SHAUN MOTT

SNOWPLOW The Bears face Lethbridge this week and hope to beat them like they did Calgary.

"I think our depth has gotten better. I think that was always our weakest link—we had one good line and three lines that were very okay," he said. "Now we've got two or three lines that can go, and that makes a big difference when you're playing the U of As, the U of Cs, and the U of Ss."

Gatto said that one of his team's biggest issues is that they seem unable to maintain their intensity

through an entire weekend series. They've won both of their Friday night games, but lost their Saturday matches.

"Inconsistency is an issue," he said. "We play really well one night and then just let the foot off the gas because we figure we're going to be really good again, and we haven't been."

The puck drops between the two teams at Clare Drake Arena on Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm.

Soccer Pandas prepare to bury Dinos, secure playoff position

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor

With four games left in their season, eight is the Pandas soccer team's magic number.

Four points ahead of the Calgary Dinos (3-5-2) for the sixth and final playoff spot in Canada West, any combination of points won by Alberta (5-5-0) and lost by Calgary equaling eight will seal it for the Pandas, who host the Dinos and the Lethbridge Pronghorns (4-2-4) this weekend.

"I think [the weekend's] big for the UC/UA battle," Pandas bench boss Liz Jepsen said. "It's huge for our own mental preparation to be able to [clinch] now."

A pair of victories over Lethbridge and Calgary will not only guarantee a playoff spot for Alberta, but also redeem early-season losses to both opponents.

"They beat us and deserved the win, and yeah, there is something to prove. Not only does it make [the standings crazy], but there is a revenge factor; we need to come out and do better," Jepsen explained. "It wouldn't be acceptable to walk in and battle for anything less than a win to get back at them."

Getting those six points could be a tall order for the Pandas, however, especially against the 'Horns, who are coming off of their first-ever upset of a top-ranked team after they knocked off UBC last week.

"Lethbridge, they're on fire these days. Their goalie [Megan Lumley] is hot to trot. She's a keeper from our area [...] and she's flourishing," Jepsen said.

"Some keepers tend to be better at showing up for the game and not training super hard athletically, but Meg does. Her and another player they have, Sheena Stasiuk—who did a number on us last time with three free-kick scores—are a great combination.

"Lethbridge is on a high, and deservedly so, but they need to know they can lose, and we need to know we can beat them."

Playing into Alberta's favour will be the venue. Larger than the field the Pronghorns won on in Lethbridge, Jepsen hopes that the extra room will allow her squad to prove that, while Lethbridge has some top-quality players, the Pandas as a whole are more talented.

"I like the fact that they're coming into our home pitch, and I like the fact that we're playing on our big



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

YIN YANG The Pandas hope to kick Lethbridge and Calgary out of contention.

Foote Field. We play soccer well on a big field, and it'll be to our advantage to stretch them out. I feel we are pretty deep, and from seeing [the Pronghorns] last time, I'd say they have a few outstanding players, but I don't know about their overall depth. It was hard to measure on their field, so I'd like to measure it on our field," she explained.

"It wouldn't be acceptable to walk in and battle for anything less than a win to get back at them."

LIZ JEPSEN
PANDAS HEAD COACH

"Generally speaking, we're technically a strong team; we position ourselves well. We work better together, thus our advantage," she continued. "The bigger field means that if you're fast, you can get away, and if you're

not as fast, you have the space to get away. When we're playing against Lethbridge, it'll give us more opportunity to spread the defenders so we can tactically create open looks because it's going to be a tactics game to beat that 'keeper."

While the 'Horns may prove to be the tougher task on the weekend, it'll be the game against Calgary that will hold the most weight in the standings, as a win over the Dinos will count for six of those magic eight points. Helping Alberta out, in addition to the big pitch, is a banged-up Dinos squad.

"Calgary suffered the loss of two key players on Sunday, but they seemed like [...] little nagging [injuries], so I suspect they'll be in the lineup; we'll prepare as if they're back in the lineup," Jepsen explained. "Calgary's pulling at threads to stay alive, so we'll have to be super ready to battle."

The Dinos come to town Friday at noon, while the Pronghorns are here Sunday at the same time. Both games go on the grass side at Foote Field.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By Robin Collum

Pandas burn rubber to Vancouver

The Pandas field hockey team are away from home this weekend, playing at UBC on their much-touted water-based turf, which, as I've been told by more than one disgruntled visiting coach, is much faster than the rubber turf Foote Field has to offer.

As if that weren't enough to look forward to, they'll also be facing off against one of the best teams in the conference. The Pandas (3-4-3) have met UBC (7-1-2) twice this year already; the Thunderbirds were Alberta's guests for their home-opener, when the home team completed one of the bigger upsets

of the season by beating the now first-place team 2-1. The 'Birds rebounded the next day and beat the Pandas 1-0. It's a safe bet that neither team has forgotten that weekend: UBC will be looking for revenge for their season's only loss, while the Pandas will surely want to show that first game was no fluke.

Rugby tackles conference rivals

Canada West women's rugby had an unprecedented two tournaments this season. The first one, hosted by the U of A three weeks ago, was a seeding event for this weekend's conference championships in Victoria.

The Pandas—who didn't make it out of last year's conference finals for the first time ever—go into this one as the top seed after sweeping the home tourney. That means they'll meet Victoria in their first game on Friday afternoon. The winner of that game will then take on

either third-place UBC or second-seed—and last year's CIS silver-medallists—Lethbridge for the gold medal on Sunday. Both teams in that game earn spots to Nationals at the University of Western Ontario on 1-4 November.

Freaks and cheeks

Considering that Natalie is wearing a deep purple bra, you'd think she'd be sporting matching panties. But no: today, her undies are red. I don't have a matching set either, though. Tan bra and pink checkered undies. Go figure.

As for the boys, they're pretty boring with their boxers today. It's all dull grey (Mike Otto and Ryan), blue plaid (Conal), and not-so-tightie whities (our fearless leader Adam). More notable than shorts, however, is Ryan's actual rear end. He mooned the office today, and I saw his bottom. This may make our upcoming road trip uncomfortable.

Jai Alai has often been advertised as "the fastest game on earth," because when properly thrown with a basket-glove the goatskin ball can travel up to 302km/h. It is also one of only two sports in the world that explicitly forbids left-hand play (polo is the other).

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THE GATEWAY

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RYAN SHIPPELT

SOMEONE FOUND THE GREAT PUMPKIN Engineers Without Borders dropped a gourd from 100 feet onto a van to raise awareness for the Make Poverty History campaign yesterday at Varsity Field.

Students set sights on civic politics

Newcomers in wards 4 and 5 aim to address city-wide and student-specific issues

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Edmonton's municipal election ended Monday evening with wards 4 and 5 each gaining a new face representing many students of the University of Alberta.

In Ward 4, where the University sits, Ben Henderson edged Lewis Cardinal by a small margin to claim the seat left vacant by long-time councillor Michael Phair's retirement. Following his victory, Henderson explained that it's going to be important for council to address the major issues that affect not only students, but the city as a whole.

"We've got a real housing problem in the city right now, and it's taking everything off of the market that's actually in the affordable range for everybody on a low income, and that includes students," Henderson said, adding that a lot of the solution will actually lie in the hands of the provincial government.

"I think we have to keep on pushing the Province to come to the table to create some incentives so we can get some more things built and happening."

Former Students' Union advocacy director Don Iveson upset incumbent Mike Nickel to represent Ward 5. U of A political science professor James Lightbody said Iveson's victory was an "impressive win," attributing this to a well run and managed campaign.

"What was impressive about Iveson

in defeating a very strong incumbent, Mike Nickel, was that he had very good skills in organizing a campaign," Lightbody said. "He chose the right people to work with and they produced."

"I think the EAS will be pretty strong with our advocacy towards this new council. I'm pretty sure that we'll be able to get some things done."

JUSTIN BENKO
PRESIDENT
MACEWAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Iveson, whose platform included a large focus on transit and housing, said that addressing these matters will be easier now that they're more prevalent in the public at large.

"I think there's an awareness out there of the issues that maybe there wasn't a year ago," he said, "And that bodes well for getting seven votes on council to support building student housing and transit."

However, the first-time councillor explained that he won't just be focusing explicitly on student issues when it comes to the City and the University working together.

"I also look forward to working

with the University collaboratively on not just student issues, but partnerships between the City, Capital Health, and the University that will help put the city on the map as a destination for scholarship," Iveson said.

This election marked the first major advocacy effort put forward by the recently formed Edmonton Alliance of Students (EAS), a municipal advocacy group made up of the U of A Students' Union, the NAIT Student Association, and the MacEwan Student Association.

The EAS sent out questionnaires regarding housing, transit, and bettering the student experience in Edmonton to every candidate running, posting the responses on their recently launched website. Students were then encouraged to evaluate the responses and become informed about the candidates in their respective wards.

MacEwan Student Association President Justin Benko said that the advocacy options for the EAS are looking positive following the elections.

"I think the EAS will be pretty strong with our advocacy towards this new council. I'm pretty sure that we'll be able to get some things done."

SU President Michael Janz echoed these sentiments, adding that the recent civic election was an important chance to get students engaged in politics, as there may be more on the horizon.

PLEASE SEE **ELECTION** ♦ PAGE 2

SU rekindles idea of CASA membership

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Five years after leaving the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), the University of Alberta's Students' Union is reconsidering its membership options.

CASA National Director Zach Churchill was on campus Tuesday to meet with members of the SU executive and to give a presentation in Council on the value of federal lobbying efforts.

"What we do affects students on campus," Churchill said. "We've seen \$800 million earmarked for postsecondary education, [Finance Minister James] Flaherty quoted CASA when he presented that budget in the House, [and] we've seen our policies adopted in the last two economic updates from the federal government."

In 1995, the U of A was one of the founding members of CASA, which currently has an alliance of 20 student associations across Canada. However, that union ended in 2002; since then, the SU has been unaffiliated with any federal advocacy groups.

Students' Union VP (External) Steven Dollansky explained that, five years ago, one of the major reasons for leaving CASA was that the SU wanted to spend more on advocacy at the provincial level. He said that at the time, the SU took the \$40 000 they had been spending on CASA and invested it in strengthening the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), as well

as funding the beginning of the SU's advocacy department.

"Since then the advocacy department has expanded exponentially," Dollansky said, adding that the SU now spends around \$250 000 on advocacy efforts.

"But at the same time ... instead of spending \$40 000 nationally and \$10 000 provincially, now we spend \$250 000 provincially and zero nationally," he added.

SU President Michael Janz added that he believes the SU now needs "to look at lobbying to all three levels of government." Joining CASA would cost the SU \$46 000, or between \$1.57–\$1.60 per student; in comparison, this year's membership fee for CAUS is \$1.21 per student.

However, Dave Cournoyer, last year's SU VP (External), explained that the 2006/07 executive also analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of CASA, along with investigating the effectiveness and of lobbying the federal government.

"The conclusion that I came to last year, and I think it's still accurate this year, is that our fight for postsecondary education is across the river here in Edmonton—it's not in Ottawa," Cournoyer said.

"I don't think that using students' money to pay for membership fees for a national organization like this is an effective use of the advocacy budget and of the students' money," he added.

PLEASE SEE **CASA** ♦ PAGE 2

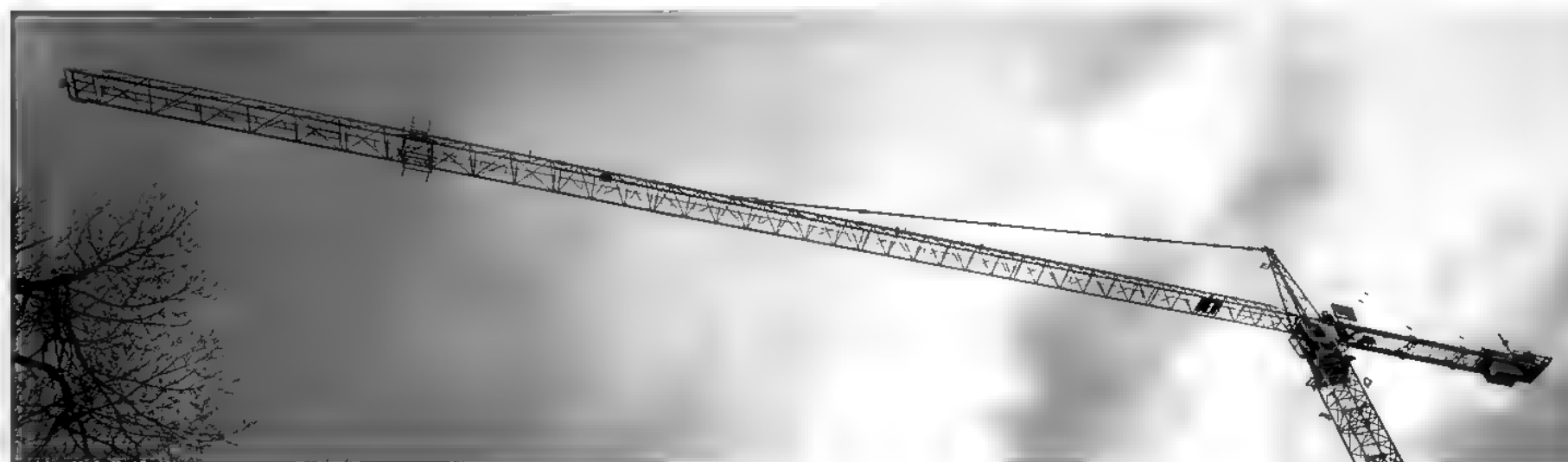
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Look up—waaaaaaay up

You don't have to crane your neck to get all the dirt on campus construction—just dig this handy three-page report.

FEATURE, PAGE 11-13



Road-trippin'

There won't be a paper next Tuesday, as the Gateway is hitting the road to hang out with other student journalists and learn about newspapering. But fear not, as we'll be back on 25 October!

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RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES 230

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Do you have a professor that's unique and shows their value of undergraduate teaching? Nominate them! Email avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

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FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

HOOPS I DID IT AGAIN The Pandas will get some extra pre-season practice as they host teams from all over Canada.

Hardcourt Pandas hoop it up

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor

After playing each other seven times last year, the last thing the Alberta Pandas and Saskatchewan Huskies basketball squads wanted out of their pre-season was another matchup. Both teams will have their wish during this weekend's Pandas Hoopfest tournament after it was reformatted for this season.

"Certainly, me and Lisa [Thomaidis] from Saskatchewan are excited about not seeing each other; we play each other enough during the year," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards said. "Without even trying to play each other this weekend, we'll see them at least seven times this year. From the Canada West perspective, we just want to play other schools; we play each other so much."

Joining Alberta and Saskatchewan in the Main Gym this weekend will be the Bishop's Gaiters, Waterloo Warriors, Concordia Stingers, and Regina Cougars, two more teams than attended last year. The new additions will allow the three Canada West squads to face the three easterners over the course of the weekend, instead of taking on each other.

Though his conference is generally regarded as the toughest in the country, Edwards is more than happy to be facing some unfamiliar foes as his squad lines up for their first exhibition games against CIS opponents.

"For our first tournament in this year, I think we need to have some games under our belts before we get to our tough Canada West [schedule]—not that any of the teams we're playing are slight at all,

but getting ready for Canada West play, we need to ramp up our game. For our first games of the year, I like our draw," he said.

Additionally, facing off against teams that they haven't seen play—and don't even have tape of—offers a chance to concentrate on their own preparation, instead of keying on what an opponent might do.

"From the Canada West perspective, we just want to play other schools; we play each other so much."

SCOTT EDWARDS
PANDAS HEAD COACH

"We have to focus on our team instead of the other teams because we don't know anything about them," fourth-year forward Kristin Jarock explained.

"The neat thing is that we're not pre-programmed into what we're doing," Edwards added. "When we play Saskatchewan, we play Calgary, we play Lethbridge, we play a certain style because we know how to play them and we see them all the time.

"For these other teams, there's a chance to loosen the strings and see what else your team is capable of doing on the floor and see what other kids can do in new environments and new roles and see what their growth has been since last year."

While they don't know much about their opponents yet, what they learn this weekend could come in handy

later in the season. At last year's tournament, Alberta beat the Memorial University Sea-Hawks 63–61, a result that proved prophetic: when the two teams met again in the national semi-final, the Pandas won again.

"You always want to look forward to games that you could get again later in the season," Edwards explained. "Having had the opportunity to play Memorial [in Hoopfest] last year worked really well for us when we walked onto their home floor during Nationals, when there was 2700 people all hating us. I think it calmed us down going into the game knowing we'd already beat them. So hopefully we'll see these guys again down the road because it means we all had a great season."

More than anything else, this weekend's tournament will give the teams a preview of how their squads will look when the regular season starts in two weeks and an opportunity to try to fill the holes poked in rosters during the off-season.

"We need to see what we've got this year," Edwards said. "We've obviously lost some leadership in Kara Stevens and Michelle Smith, and we need to see who can step up and be a leader this year. Putting kids into roles where they can step up and fill that hole will be our goal this weekend."

For the players, meanwhile, it'll be a chance to get back on the court together and get used to each other's playing in a competitive environment, rather than just scrimmaging.

"We've got to get back to our style," Jarock said. "[We'll] just get to know our offences and defences and get to know each other on the court as a team."

HOOPFEST SCHEDULE

| Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bishop's vs Regina, 4pm | Saskatchewan vs Waterloo, 4pm | Bishop's vs Saskatchewan, 11am |
| Concordia vs Saskatchewan, 6pm | Alberta vs Bishop's, 6pm | Waterloo vs Regina, 1pm |
| Waterloo vs Alberta, 8pm | Regina vs Concordia, 8pm | Concordia vs Alberta, 3pm |

Bears on the rebound from weekend loss

Coming off a tough loss and tie, Alberta's mens' soccer team is looking to secure a couple of wins as they close in on the playoffs

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

In a game like soccer, things don't always go as planned. All you can do is try to prepare as much as possible, which is the approach the Bears soccer team (4-3-3) is taking going into this weekend's home games against the Calgary Dinos (3-6-1) and the Lethbridge Pronghorns (4-4-2).

"We're going to put two strong performances on the field," Bears head coach Len Vickery said. "You never know how the ball is going to roll after that; if you take care of your own business, your own performance, oftentimes the results follow."

"We've got to get our players up to speed with winning their aerial challenges and defending."

LEN VICKERY
BEARS HEAD COACH

Vickery has taken that pragmatic attitude in response to his team's high number of draws, like this past Sunday's against the University College of the Fraser Valley, when Alberta was up 2-1 at the end of regulation time, but let in a goal during injury time to end up with a tie.

"As we saw, we did put a strong performance together, but with the unfortunate goal scored in overtime, these things sometimes happen," Vickery said. "The least you can work towards is ensuring that you do get that strong performance."

In particular, the Bears have been working on improving their defence. The Dinos sit at the bottom of Canada West, but Lethbridge is third in the conference—only one point behind the Bears.

"We've got to get our players up

to speed with winning their aerial challenges and defending," Vickery said. "It's been our goal for a number of weeks now that we've got to be stronger in that regard because we've conceded goals in every single game. We're still working to ensure we limit the opposition's goal-scoring opportunities and goals against."

Back-end problems notwithstanding, the Bears have plenty to be happy with at this point in the year. With only four games to go in the regular season, the Bears sit second in Canada West and are ranked ninth nationwide. Considering that the team—2006 national champions—lost five starting seniors at the end of last season, Vickery considers those statistics especially impressive, and attributes their competitiveness to his athletes' commitment.

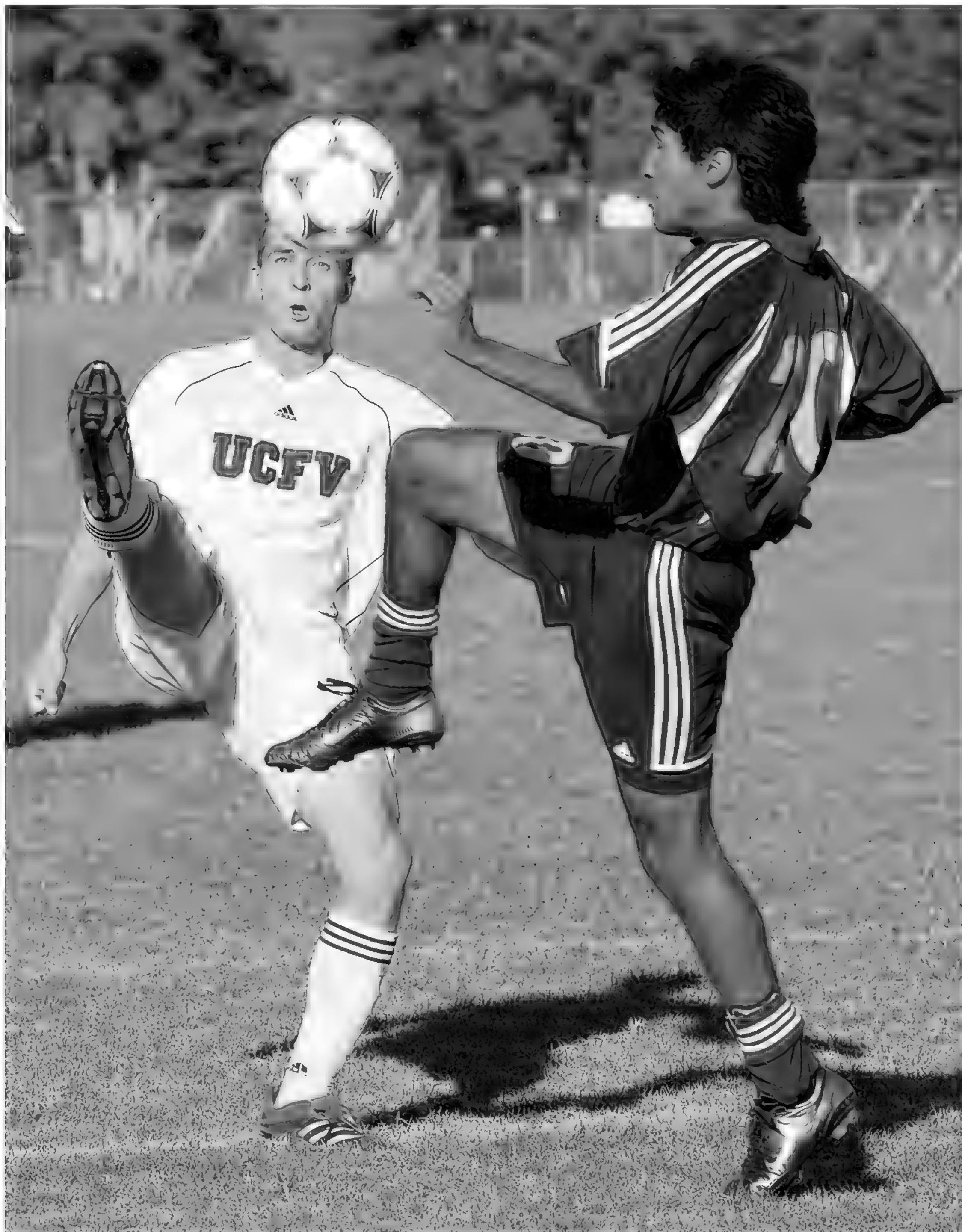
"Our strengths as a team are the attitude of the players and the work ethic," he said. "Everyone is working hard to elevate their game because that's what it's going to require not just through the last four games of the season, but hopefully through the playoffs and toward nationals."

The biggest learning curve, Vickery explained, was for the new players to get accustomed to the realities of varsity soccer.

"The progress has been tremendous. The first weekend, a number of players were caught unawares of the kind of demands and rigours of the game played at the Canada West level," he said.

"That was kind of an eye-opener, but the players have picked up on what is required. Because we're a young team, we can't take anything for granted, we can't take a day off, we can't take it easy in practice; we've got to be working on all aspects of our game on a consistent basis, and that's what the players have committed to and work towards."

Games are Friday and Sunday at 2:15pm at Foote Field.



MIKE OTTO

MINISTRY OF SILLY WALKS The Bears will have to stay on their toes against Calgary and Lethbridge this weekend.

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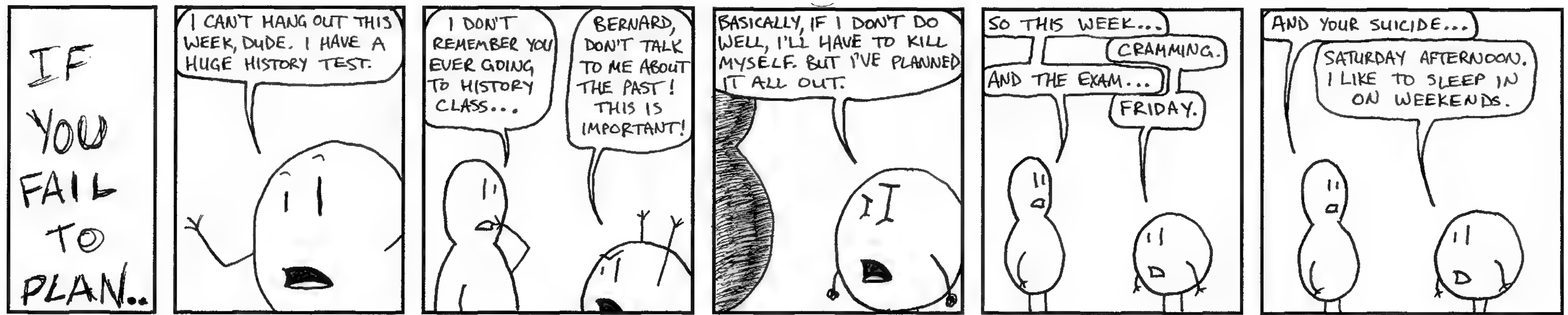
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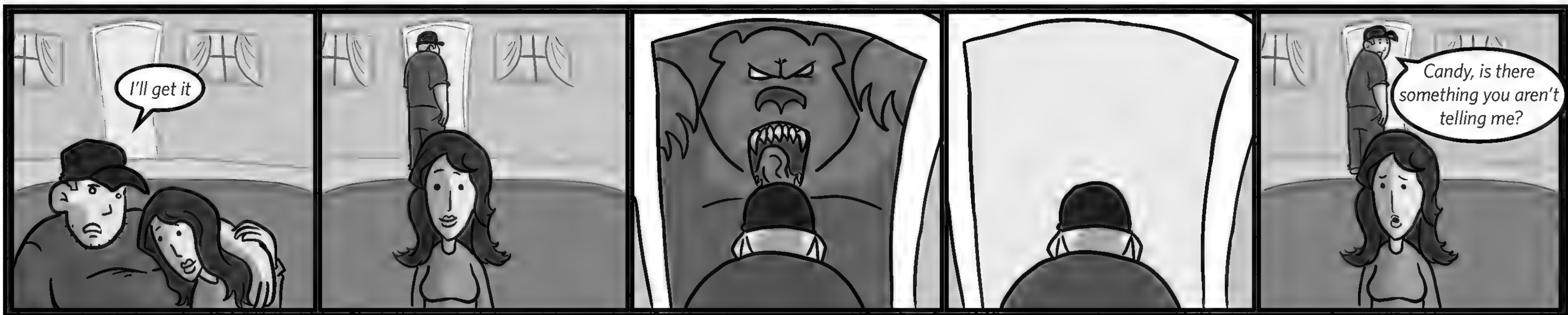
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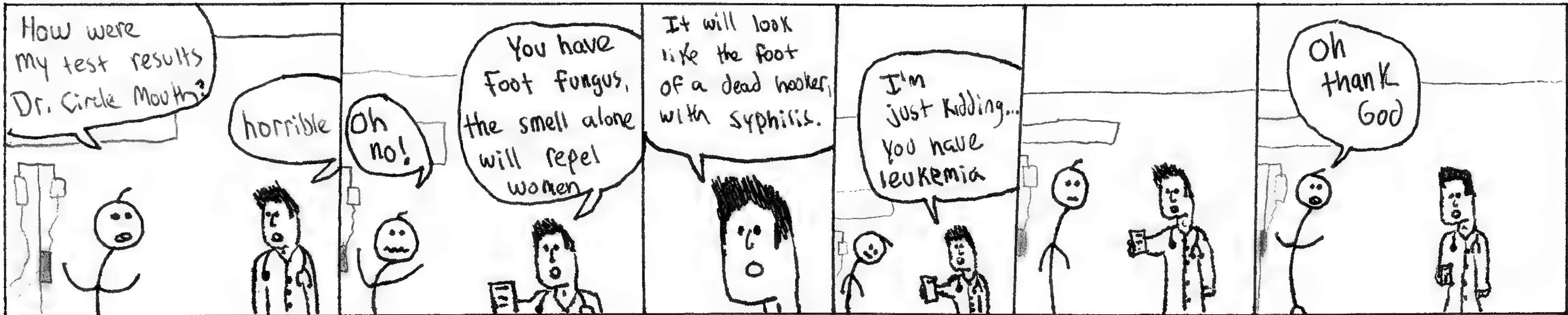
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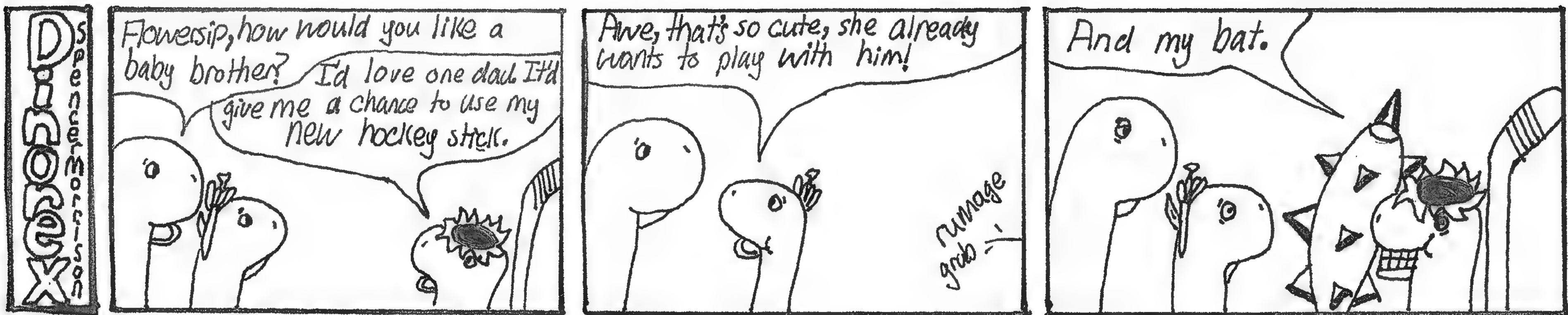
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Suite 3-04
Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7

Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorialstaff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Adam Gaumont
ec@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 5168

MANAGING EDITOR Paul Owen
managng@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6654

SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Natalie Climenhaga
news@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 7308

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Ryan Heise
deputynews@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6664

OPINION EDITOR Conal Pierse
opinon@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6661

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Paul Blinov
entertainment@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 7052

SPORTS EDITOR Robin Collum
sports@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6652

PHOTO EDITOR Mike Otto
photo@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6648

DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Mike Kendrick
production@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6663

ONLINE COORDINATOR Victor Vargas
online@gate.way, ualberta.ca

businessstaff


BUSINESS MANAGER Steve Smith
bz@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6669

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Cziolek
sales@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6700


AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Larissa Gilchrist
design@gate.way, ualberta.ca | 492 6647

CIRCULATION PAL Megan Cleaveley

CIRCULATION PAL Kelsey Tanasliuk
circu at on@gate.way, ualberta.ca



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contributors

Mara Koto, yin Bryan Saunders, Alexander Witt, Vanessa Horne, Ben Grune, and Sarah Stead. Sarah Scott, Jon Mastie, Krystina Sulatycki, Caroline Lee, Jonn Kmech, Granam Lettner, Elizabeth Andrews, Renfree, John Gagnon, Erin Gray, and Kaye Krause. Spencer Morrison, Kye Gooding, Tara Stegitz, Laura Grinos, Zhenqiong Li, Ker Zeleny, Sarah Youngs, Lauren Stegitz, Pete Yee, Shaun Mott, Starluck's Vent, Amercano, Aegited Companion Cube.

EAS plans to further advocacy

ELECTION ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"This year we're potentially going to have a federal and provincial election coming up. These are the big chances for students to get their message out and to make education the focus," Janz said.

Both Iveson and Henderson said that they look forward to working with Edmonton student groups to work on issues of concern for them.

"The more information I can get from people, especially from all sorts of different groups—and that absolutely includes students—the better," Henderson said. "They're a major chunk of the people of Ward 4, so they shouldn't be shy about getting in touch."

Lightbody explained that it will be difficult to get all of council on board to address issues pertaining to students, but that they would benefit from many of the city-wide problems that need to be dealt with.

"Several of the issues that affect the city as a whole will have an impact on students," he explained. "That's where better transit comes into play, a stronger strategy with respect to housing comes into play. Students will be beneficiaries of policy thrusts in other areas for other clientele."

SU focus should be at the provincial, not federal level, says Cournoyer

CASA ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SU President Michael Janz noted that in previous years, the SU's priorities were focused on the provincial level. However, he added that since then, a lot of the priorities of this year's executive, such as the student loan system, academic materials, and scholarships and bursaries, are all connected to the federal level.

"We can't talk about Alberta student loans without getting into the Canada Student Loan presentation," Janz said. He added that many of the decisions made in Ottawa occur in closed-door meetings that the SU isn't invited to.

However, Cournoyer said the student loans example was "a bunk argument," and said that in previous years, when the premiers have gotten together to discuss postsecondary education, CAUS has been at the table and involved.

"There are a lot of ways that [the SU] can be involved more effectively through what we're doing right now instead of having to spend students' money on another organization that's going to duplicate what we're doing provincially federally, but not as effectively.

"At a time when we have a provincial election coming soon [...] shifting our focus federally is not a smart idea if we want to get some effective change done for students," Cournoyer said.



RYAN HEISE

SUITING UP FOR A SALE Churchill explains why the SU should join CASA.

But Dollansky also noted the federal government has "a significant impact on our campus," listing the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and a majority of the research money on our campus as some other examples of federal influence at the U of A.

"And, in addition, somewhere between 15 and 20 per cent of every provincial dollar that is spent on post-secondary education comes from the federal government in the form of

transfers," Dollansky added.

Nevertheless, Cournoyer said there's still a lot of stuff that needs to be worked at on the provincial level, and expressed concern that if the SU's attention is diverted federally, a lot of those provincial advocacy goals will be negatively impacted.

"The fight is here in Alberta," he said. "That's where we need to focus. The feds just don't have as much influence."

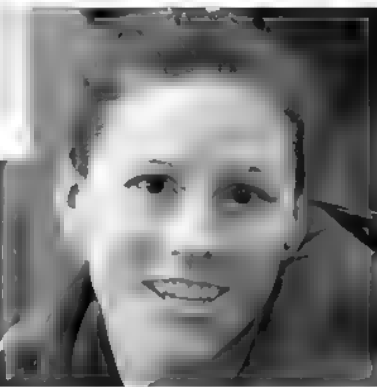
STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

Engineers Without Borders dropped a 200kg pumpkin on a van to raise awareness of global poverty. If you could eliminate one intangible concept with any kind of food, what would it be?



Regine Delvalle
Nursing III



Kimberly Hirsch
Kinesiology V



Matt Dobko
Arts I



Mark Prokopiuk
Open Studies

If they destroyed poverty with a pumpkin, I could destroy war. With a nuclear bomb—no, it's not [a food item]. With pie.

I would destroy racism with jellybeans, because they're multicolored.

I'd destroy emo-ism with a giant squash.

Sexism with mashed potatoes, because it's really messy and should be pretty hot at the end of the day.



Female students with disrupted social networks more likely to binge

CAROLINE LEE
News Writer

According to a study published in the October 2007 issue of the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, first-year female students living away from home are at a greater risk of demonstrating symptoms of binge eating.

Dr Erin Barker, professor of psychology at Beloit College in Wisconsin, completed the study while earning her PhD at the University of Alberta. Barker found that first-year students that demonstrated an inability to adjust to their new social environment were more susceptible to consuming unusually large amounts of food to, the point that they would feel the need to hide such eating habits from others.

“Students who weren’t making new connections for themselves in university were at a greater risk of developing the binge eating disorder,” she said. “If you are moving away from home and are having trouble fitting into your new social world, all these stresses could combine and contribute to these behaviours.”

The study was a subsection of a larger, ongoing study examining whether or not the transition to university affected health behaviours. At the U of A, 101 female participants in their first year of postsecondary education completed an online checklist daily for 14 days to determine whether or not they demonstrated symptoms of binge eating. From there, the researchers examined the variables related to the symptoms associated with the disorder.

“What we found was that the academic variables weren’t related to binge eating symptoms. In the study, we included three academic variables: GPA for that semester, the participant’s subjective perception of their adjustment academically, and number of class hours. None of those variables were associated with binge eating symptoms,” Barker explained.

Instead, she said the disruption of social networks and an inability to form new connections were the leading factors linked to binge eating. Such occurrences were compounded by a move away from parents’ homes, as



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SARAH YOUNUS

COMFORTING CALORIES Female students run a higher risk of overeating.

well as body dissatisfaction.

Dr Agatha Beschell, a registered psychologist at the University Health Centre Student Counselling Services, explained that binge eating tends to occur in such cases to alleviate stress associated with such a transition—usually after a period of food deprivation.

“It’s a coping mechanism to deal with emotions; if someone is going through a stressful time or experiencing difficult emotions, they may demonstrate ‘emotional eating’ in this context. I think we can say that we’ve all done it. But when it becomes a pattern and gets out of control, then it is identified as binge eating,” Beschell said.

Barker added that emotional disorders such as depression are also associated with frequent binge eating, as individuals begin to associate negative feelings with such behaviour.

However, Beschell stressed that the purpose of the study wasn’t to diagnose eating disorders, but to

identify students with symptoms of binge eating. In most cases, displaying these symptoms isn’t an indication that an individual will continue to exhibit the behaviour long-term, or that these symptoms will develop into a more serious eating disorder; instead, symptoms usually fade as the individual becomes more adjusted to their social environment.

Beschell added that binge eating may appear to be harmless on the surface, but there are a few consequences associated with the disorder: it’s one of the main criteria of *bulimia nervosa*, a serious eating disorder.

“Even without going to the extreme, binge eating alone can cause a lot of distress. It can make a person feel quite guilty and feel even worse about their body image because it can lead to weight gain. In this case, it can actually become a vicious cycle where it may lead to more dieting and consequently more binge eating,” Beschell said.

“I would encourage Councillors to not touch other Councillors’ microphones.

AMANDA HENRY
Students’ Council Speaker
—on the importance of council etiquette

COUNCIL FORUM

by Jon Mastel

Students’ Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30 October, where free food will be provided for all attendees.

QUESTION PERIOD

Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Eamonn Gamble was questioned on the use of the handicap doors in SUB with the winter approaching. It was suggested that signs be posted requesting students not use them unless they need them. Gamble stated that he hadn’t given it much thought until that time, and that he would look into it.

VP (External) Steve Dollansky responded to a question regarding how the SU was going to lobby the federal government in regard to the recent Throne Speech. Since the speech hadn’t even ended by the time the Council meeting started, Dollansky stated that he would have to first read the speech and await the responses from the opposition parties before determining lobby strategies. He also added that the current government might fall in the next few weeks if the Speech isn’t passed in the House.

SU President Michael Janz was asked about the status regarding the appointment of speakers for the Revolutionary Speakers Series. Janz replied that a long list of speakers had been compiled and passed off to the SU staff to review costs and availability.

Gamble responded to a question regarding the financial status of Dewey’s by explaining that the last month had a loss of \$1100-1200, but that it took a

few weeks to get in the swing of things, and that Dewey’s had been closed for a few days to train the new staff. He continued to say that the upcoming projections should meet and maybe surpass budgetary goals.

Gamble was also questioned regarding Safewalk. Normally, Safewalk volunteers work in teams of one girl and one guy; recently, however, all-male teams have been noticed patrolling campus. The question was whether Safewalk was still able to provide the service required of them. Gamble responded by stating that Safewalk was a valuable service, but the usage had dramatically increased since last year. He continued by saying that Safewalk is looking for volunteers, and if students like the service, hopefully they will volunteer.

ATTENDANCE

The following councillors were absent during the 2 October meeting: Chiswell (BoG Rep), Farhat (Science).

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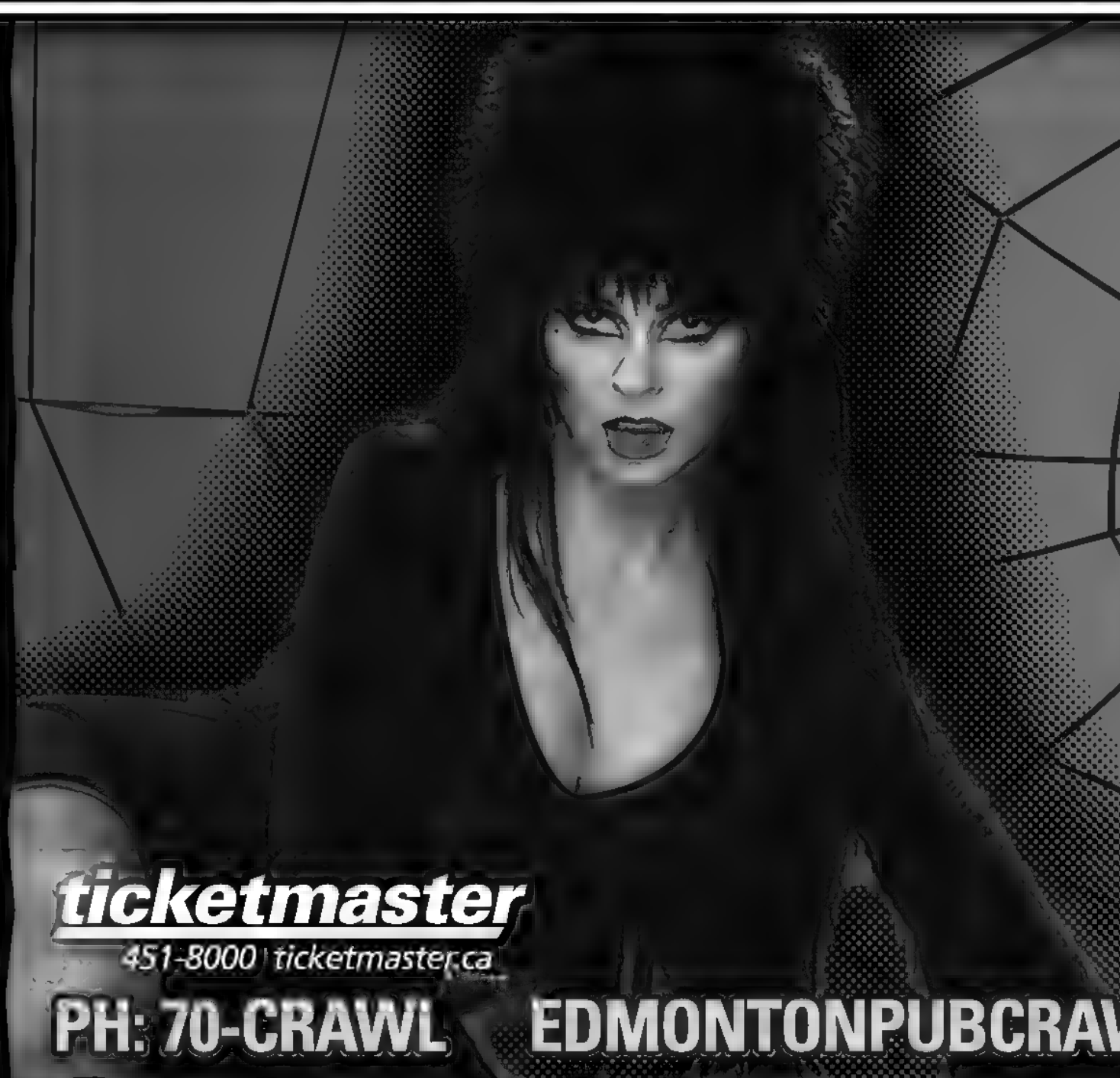
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NEWS BRIEF

U OF A FAST-A-THON COMBINES RELIGION AND CHARITY

The Muslim Student's Association (MSA) is once again holding their annual "Fast-A-Thon"—an event that encourages non-Muslim students to fast during the month of Ramadan. Last year, Fast-A-Thon raised \$2000 for the Campus Food Bank, 80 per cent of which will go towards charitable expenses.

As MSA President Zacharia Al Khatub explained, Fast-A-Thon is also grounded in real-world political concerns. The event, he says, also bridges the gap between non-Muslim students and those that follow the Islamic faith—a gap that he said has increased recently.

"Many students have misconceptions or concerns because of the predominance of very violent acts that have taken place and dominate the media spotlights. So in order to propagate the mainstream and the Islam the majority of Muslims follow on Earth, we try to undertake events like this show that our worship is very simple; it's very purifying and good and helps contribute to the community," Al Khatub said.

The MSA doesn't require a donation from participants to participate in Fast-A-Thon. Instead, for every person that fasts, the Muslim Business Association gives a monetary donation to the Campus Food Bank and anyone—even those that didn't fast—can join in on their celebratory dinner on 18 October at the Telus Centre.

Technically, Fast-A-Thon isn't being held entirely over Ramadan, as the holiday ended on 13 October. However, as Al Khatub explained, "even in the month after Ramadan, Muslims are encouraged to fast for a number of days. The Muslims will also be fasting those days, so we are asking non-Muslims to participate. It's the same type of fasting as Ramadan."

Madeline Bachmann, executive director of the Campus Food Bank, said the proceeds will go back into the student community, and that the event allowed people to experience Islamic culture while helping out a charity at the same time.

"I think it's really great when organizations on campus that aren't necessarily connected work together and collaborate," Bachmann said.

—Victor Vargas, Online Coordinator

McClennan hired as Scholar in Residence

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Writer

A joint agreement between the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics and the School of Business has resulted in Shirley McClellan being hired as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

McClellan, whose political career began in 1987 with her election into the Alberta Legislature, will spend the next three years working part-time at the University as a mentor, advisor, and lecturer.

During her political career, McClellan has held a number of prestigious positions, including minister of health, service minister of agriculture, and deputy premier. She was also a representative of the Ministers' Advisory Committee on Further Education.

Born in Hanna, Alberta, McClellan grew up in a rural school setting, and is still actively involved in developing education in rural areas. As a mother and grandmother, she says she understands the importance of education.

Recently, McClellan shared her thoughts with the Gateway regarding her residence at the University, what she aims to accomplish, and how she hopes to enhance students' educational experience.

What kind of work does your position as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the University of Alberta entail?

I'm going to be available in a number of areas: agricultural first, [and] research strategies, rural development, and some lectures upon request in a variety of areas. I'm also taking on an advisory role on Campus Alberta—it's how we connect to other institutions to ensure better access for rural or remote communities.

What is it that interested you about working here at the U of A?

This is just a wonderful opportunity

to work with bright people. Before I entered politics, I'd spent my adult life around a learning environment. It's something that's always been of interest to me.

I believe very firmly that a knowledge-based society is the best route to our future. I also think that there is a need for good understanding between rural and urban communities—that we are very interdependent. I always tried as a rural MLA to understand the urban perspective so I could do my job better.

How do you feel about your time here thus far?

It's been about a month, and I really enjoy it. I tend to get quite involved in what I do, and I just hope that I can contribute [to the U of A] in a meaningful way.

What do you hope to accomplish regarding your interaction with students?

I believe that there's a wonderful career in the public service, and I'm hoping that I can show some insight to students that would give them the thought of examining that as an option. We definitely need good, bright, young minds in our public service.

What do you hope to accomplish regarding your advisement on Campus Alberta initiatives?

It's my hope that, with my knowledge of rural Alberta, I can bring some insight as to the type of research that we need to do to ensure that rural communities can achieve what they are capable of. It can't be artificial; it has to be what communities can see for themselves and what barriers are out there which don't allow them to do that.

If I can be any help in expanding the opportunity for education in rural communities, I will. I think it's a great experience to go away for school.



KYLER ZELENY

FROM MLA TO ACADEMIC Shirley McClellan sets up shop at the U of A.

What do you feel are the greatest challenges facing students today?

Well, there's tuition, and housing is more of new phenomenon, but I think the biggest challenge for students today is to weigh their options. It's about making a decision of where to go, how to optimize what they've learned, and how to make it.

I've always encouraged young high-school students who are looking at a university or postsecondary education to not lock themselves in, to make sure that what they took was broad enough that if they decided to move onto something else that the degree they had would help them.

Today's young people have the

opportunity to change careers many times, and many will.

What kind of advice or guidance can you offer students?

Don't consider that your education is over when you leave university. You'll learn, and should learn, for the rest of your life. Our world is changing so rapidly, and we have to be adaptable to it.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

This is a wonderful school, and it grows everyday. I'm sure that the people that envisioned it some hundred years ago would be really proud with what they would see today.

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Shortage of scientists worrisome for LTS

KSENIA PRINTS
CUP Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Bonnie Schmidt, President of Let's Talk Science (LTS), a national science literacy program, thinks that the federal government isn't doing enough to promote young people's involvement in the sciences.

"Our economy is moving into a knowledge-based economy that is going to require more people who are comfortable with science and engineering ... and [the government is] going to be very hard-pressed to attract that workforce."

According to the latest Labour Force Survey, employment in the professional, scientific, and technical services was the third-fastest growing in the country, surpassed only by educational services and public administration.

LTS is one of several organizations across Canada hoping to increase the number of students and skilled professionals in the sciences and mathematics. It offers programs and resources for children and adults.

The LTS partnership program has volunteer university students visit schools to share their experience in the field and engage the students with science- and math-related activities. The program currently exists on 21 campuses, with over 14 000 volunteers.

"If we want to shift the culture, the drive for science and technology must permeate all walks of life," Schmidt said.

She believes the importance of science is becoming clear at the upper

echelons of Canadian politics. Grants for outreach programs have increased along with concerns about preparing a workforce for the future.

"There's been a growing interest over the last 10 years within the scientist community to engage the public in scientific pursuit," Schmidt said.

"I think we discourage people from sciences by requirements that might not be that important at an early stage."

ROBERT CAMPBELL
MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY

But some educators believe the perceived difficulty of the programs is also a drawback on recruitment efforts.

"I think we discourage people from sciences by requirements that might not be that important at an early stage," said Robert Campbell, President of Mount Allison University in New Brunswick.

Schmidt agreed, noting that getting students in the door is the first step.

"Science and technology often gets grouped into this great big area," she said, noting that while a growing number of jobs require a scientific background, students still believe being a scientist is the only option.

"Kids just don't know where the jobs are."

Ontario students encounter lengthy waits at campus polls

Last-minute regulation changes caused confusion during 10 October election

JENNIFER PAGLIARO
The Charlatan

OTTAWA (CUP)—Long lines and impromptu regulations created confusion at on-campus polling stations at Carleton University during Ontario's provincial elections last week.

Due to voting regulations, only students living in residence were allowed to vote on campus at polling stations.

Originally, students had to show proof of identification and proof of residence to vote at the on-campus polls. However, long lines, as well as uncertainty about what constituted proof of residence, eventually led poll officials to allow a verbal confirmation of a student's residence to fulfill half of the voting requirements.

"We've gotten clearance from our supervisor to accept student cards as photo identification and verbal confirmation as proof of residence," said poll official Nardia Tonge.

Earlier in the day, students had been asked to provide mail with their residence address or documents from the department of housing as proof of residence.

"A lot of people have letters from housing services, but the housing office closes at 4:30pm," said poll official Jason Hammer, explaining the change. Polls remained open until 9pm.

"Most students have been very up

front about it, asking if they're allowed to vote here. If they're suspected of being untruthful, they're asked to take an oath," Tonge said.

Lines of students waiting to vote stretched out the doors of the building and created the need for a second polling station to be set up.

Many off-campus students expressed their dissatisfaction with the poll restrictions.

"Most students have been very up front about it, asking if they're allowed to vote here. If they're suspected of being untruthful, they're asked to take an oath."

NARDIA TONGE
CARLETON POLL CLERK

Katie Lloyd, a second-year psychology student, left her place in line when she realized off-campus students were not allowed to vote at the University.

"I was not informed of this [residence-only restriction]. I find it very inconvenient," she said.

Chris Schruder, a second-year biomedical engineering student, said he

felt the same way.

"I live an hour and a half away. It would be more convenient if we could vote [on-campus]."

Tonge and Hammer opened their polling station at 9am with 1000 blank ballots.

"That's three times the number of a normal polling station," Hammer said.

Shelley Melanson, President of the Carleton University Students' Association, said she wasn't sure how on-campus voting restrictions would affect turnout.

"It's definitely hampered our ability to pull up the vote on campus," she said.

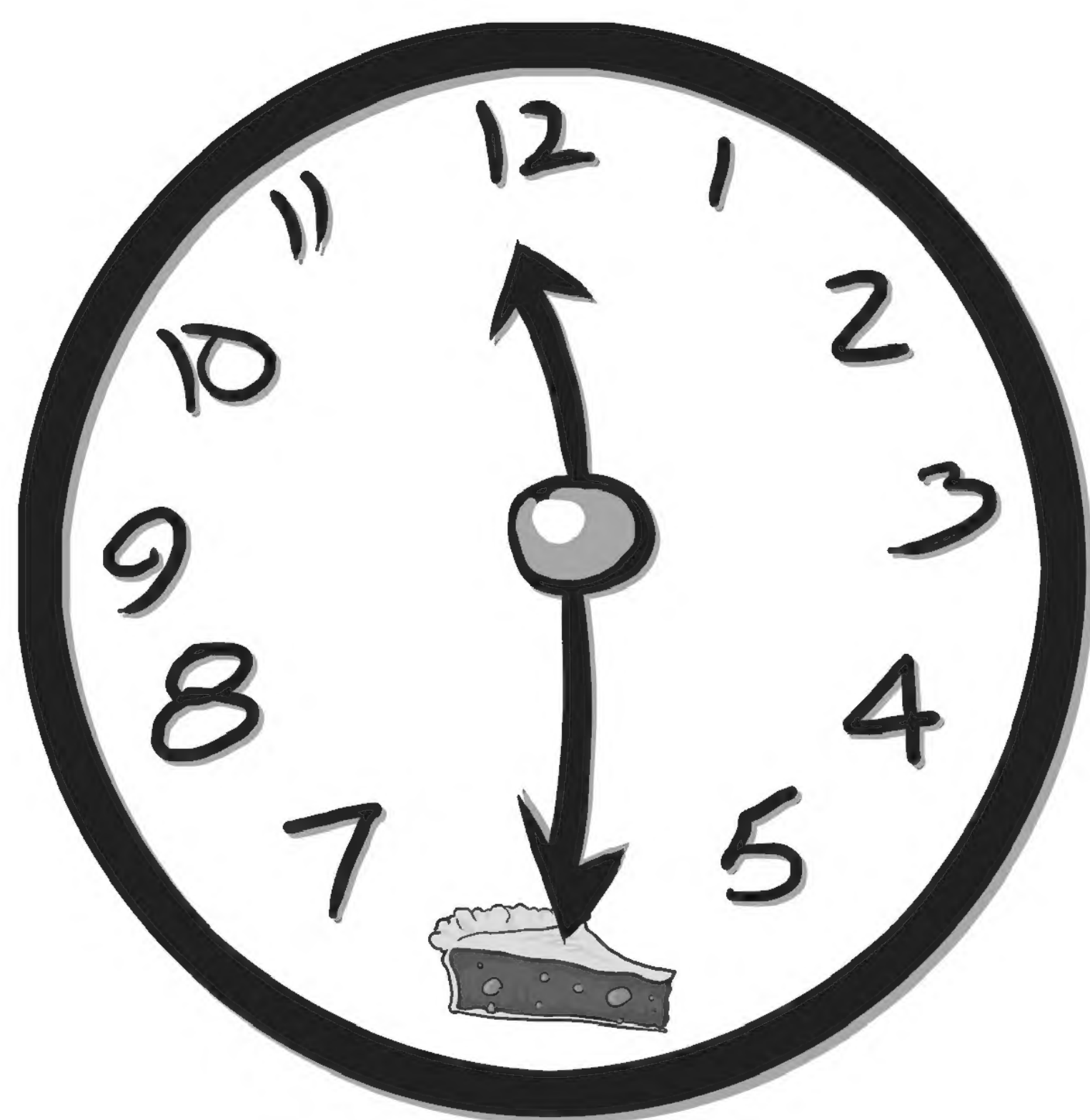
Melanson said she found the timing of the election unfortunate.

"We only had a month to get the voting campaign out, and the [strike at Carleton involving the 700 members of Local 2424 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)] impeded the focus on the election," she said.

Elections expert Jonathon Malloy, associate chair of Carleton's department of political science, said student voter apathy is a general issue across Canada. He added that one of the ways to fight political apathy among university-aged voters is by making voting on campus an easy process.

"Making voting more accessible on campus is useful," Malloy said. "That might help."

At the Gateway, there's always time for pie—especially when it's pie o'clock.



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Report card shows we've got far to go

THE *GLOBE AND MAIL* RELEASED THEIR 2007 University Report Card Tuesday, ranking dozens of postsecondary institutions across the country based on student polls. If you can get past the fact that the whole glossy pullout is just a University of Western Ontario love-in, you'll discover that the University of Alberta has fared roughly the same as they always do—average.

But as a recent graduate of the U of A, I felt compelled to look deeper at the somewhat arbitrary rankings—which are simply letter grades with no justification—and try to add some insight into where our school has been positioned.

We received a B+ in each of “Quality of Education” and “Quality of Teaching.” Not only do these categories seem fairly synonymous and equally ambiguous, giving them a letter grade is difficult to do. I've personally had professors that have spanned from F to A+; giving an average is overlooking the fact that your school probably has some awful instructors along with some brilliant ones—but you're only as strong as your weakest link.

“Libraries” was given an A-, and, while I think this is an acceptable mark, I would advocate that it should be even higher. The collections that the University holds—both on and off campus—is nothing short of vast. The sad thing is that the ease of use that the Internet provides as a research tool has made libraries go underused when it comes to undergraduate research.

“Buildings and Facilities,” on the other hand, only received a B, which, I have to admit, is appropriate. While we have newer buildings with all the bells and whistles, there are still structures on campus plagued with asbestos insulation. It's a problem the University is addressing, but deferred maintenance is definitely starting to add up. B- is probably more accurate.

“Ease of Course Registration” was given a B as well, which I can only assume stands for “Bobby Samuel tried to make this grade significantly lower.”

Another puzzling grade is the B+ in “Recreation and Athletics.” With consistently good showings at the national level from men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's hockey, and women's basketball, along with fantastic facilities between the Van Vliet Centre and the Saville Sports Centre, there's no reason why the U shouldn't have been in the A range.

On to the student life portion of the survey, where the *Globe* graciously gave us a C+ for “Campus Pubs and Bars.” Somebody must really love the sweet potato fries at Dewey's. Coming from someone who has been on campus for the majority of the Powerplant's most recent fall from grace, this hands-down needs to be a D. While not technically on campus, the only real saving grace is how close we are to Whyte Avenue.

They hit the nail on the head for “Food Services” and “Student Residences,” both garnering a C-. With only 4000 residence beds and mediocre-at-best Aramark meals offered to Listerites, these were probably the most accurate grades given out by the *Globe*. It's probably sounding like a lot of rhetoric at this point, but affordable student housing remains the most important issue affecting students at the U of A.

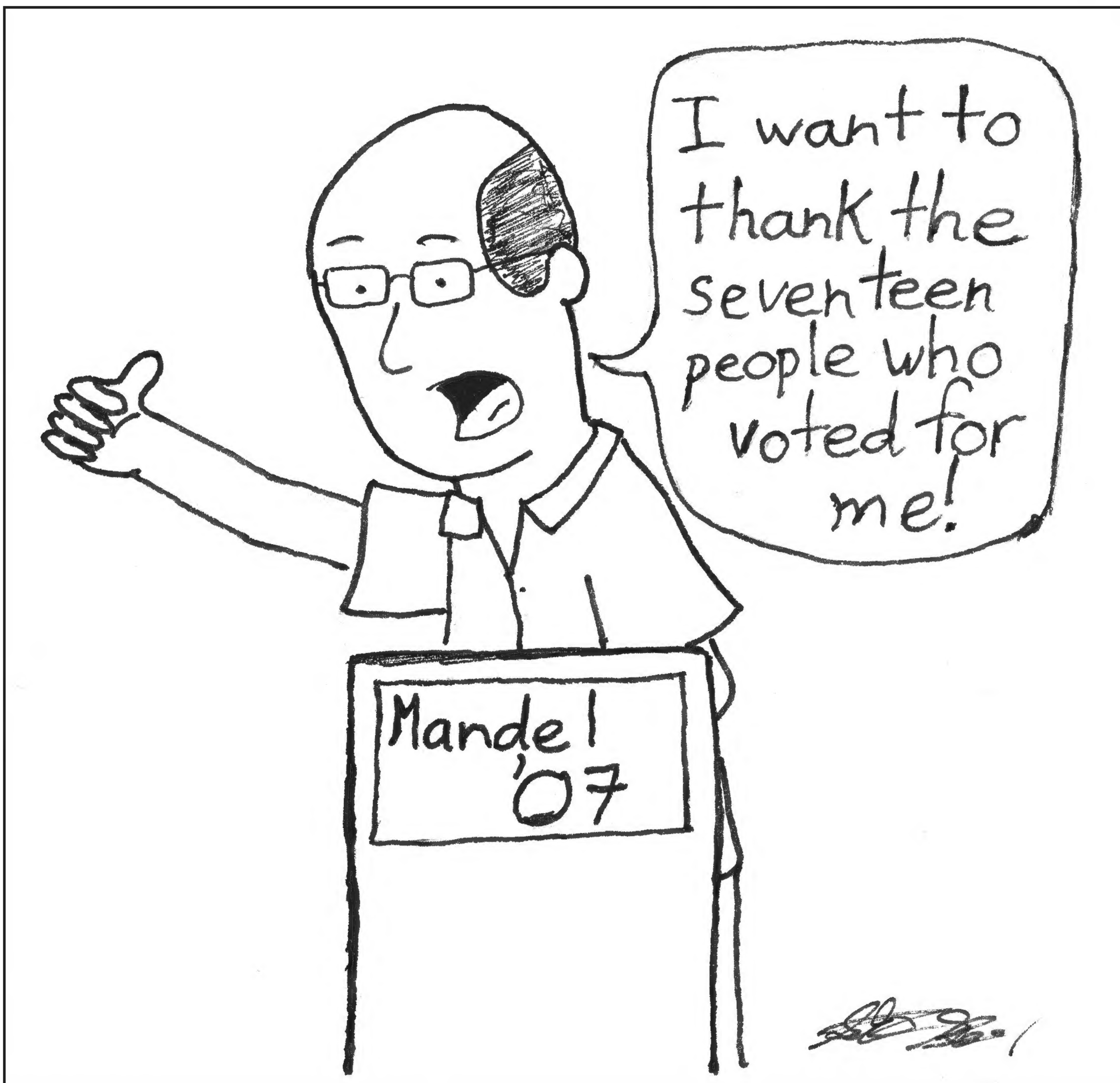
The other categories, ranging from “Course Variety and Availability” to “Student-Faculty Interaction,” were fairly innocuous, but seemed spot-on.

But while the rankings magazine is an interesting read to see how other schools across Canada are stacking up, the marks still remain fairly ambiguous. With averages given where averages skew the truth, the *Globe*'s survey demonstrates why so many schools—the U of A included—protested *MacLean*'s infamous rankings in the first place.

Still, they should make continuing students, as well as faculty, staff, and administration, re-evaluate the priorities of the University. Changes need to be made; they don't need to be in line with the rankings, but creating a positive atmosphere for students to excel in—and not the budget's bottom line—should be the number-one goal of the University and its administration.

You're never going to be able to please every student on a campus our size, but if you're averaging a B- or lower in any of the categories that the *Globe* presents, methinks it's time to rethink your approach.

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor



STEVENS SMITH

LETTERS

Comic is factually false— Oh the humanity!

Though the quality standards of the comic submissions in the *Gateway* certainly don't reinvigorate anyone's libido, I just thought I'd point out that Spencer Morrison's comic (re: *Dinorex*, 11 October) seems to be completely ignorant of the glorious history of zeppelins.

Since the vast majority of zeppelins throughout the past century used helium much like an inflatable balloon, his comic makes no sense in the way he contrasts the two. Granted, there were zeppelins that did, in fact, use hydrogen, but the positives you get by using hydrogen—that is, being lighter than air—are far outweighed by the very likely chance of blowing the fuck up. Not exactly convenient at 5000m.

In fact, as Spencer would have been aware had he done just a little bit of research before sitting down with a piece of paper and a pencil, just such a thing happened in May of 1937, when the Hindenburg exploded in front of a group of thousands of very surprised people, killing 37 of the 97 passengers on board (and a guy on the ground, if you want to get technical).

So perhaps Spencer should try explaining to the families of the victims of the 1937 incident, then, how it is that he came to the conclusion that hydrogen is, in fact, a better balloon filler than helium. Unless, I suppose, he has a thing against 1937 Nazis.

MICHAEL TANDARA
Business III

Pickle Frenzy, we hardly knew ye

It was to my great dismay that I had to see Mike Kendrick exploit my roommate Jake Troughton's great comic genius (pun well-intended) for his personal gain (re: *Pickle Frenzy*, 16 October).

Mr Troughton may not be the originator of the joke template used, but I just so happened to bear witness to his relentless proliferation of said template to Mr Kendrick about two weeks ago, at one of the illustrious University of Alberta POGOB (Playing of Games on Boards) Society meetings.

So, please do me a favour and acknowledge the man who works so hard at trying to best me at sexual innuendo, yet never will. After all, you quoted him practically verbatim.

I mean, seriously, verbatim? You hardly knew 'im!

CATRIN BERGHOFF
Arts Alumna

Privatized health care doesn't cover apples

Amanda Termeer demonstrated a stunning lack of basic logic in her “analysis” of the problems we face with our semi-socialized healthcare system in her article “An apple a day won't save you from the shortcomings of socialist health care” in the 16 October issue of the *Gateway*.

If A, B and C lacking public coverage is a problem, it seems to me an exceptionally illogical (perhaps even mentally deficient) conclusion that removing

coverage from everything would solve the problem.

How, if the lack of coverage currently results in those unable to pay lacking access to necessary treatments, will removing the funding, and thus their access to even more treatments, improve the situation? Termeer speaks of Canada demonstrating a national lobotomy, but I find “making things worse, it'll make things better” demonstrates a far greater “lack of brains.”

Termeer claims the system is a colossal waste of money, and yet our healthcare system delivers better results for less money than the American system Termeer seems so enamoured with. The same system which leaves millions of Americans without access to basic health services, and in which half of all bankruptcies are due to private medical bills (and three quarters of those who declared bankruptcy due to medical expenses had private insurance when first struck by illness). The world over, tax-funded public healthcare resoundingly correlates with more efficient, effective and equitable healthcare.

Even within our system, the sectors of the health industry that are covered by public medicare have shown stable costs, while those not funded (like prescriptions) are the cause of skyrocketing health care costs.

How anybody can propose trashing the effective components of our healthcare system to resemble the unsustainable components as a means of fixing anything but private profits is beyond me. The obvious solution that would

actually serve Canadians is more coverage by public medicare.

ADAM FERLAND
Science V

People can't live off of eating fancy ribbons

Kudos to everyone involved with the Make Poverty History campaign, specifically those who were wrapping plastic streamers around the trees on campus earlier this week.

Although it's certain that every banner that was put up will become garbage that will be, most likely, strewn across Quad, it's at least arguable that wrapping trees in plastic in no way improves conditions for the global poor.

While I support the premise, perhaps the time and money that went into producing and putting up these ambiguous white strips could have been more effectively spent.

DOUGLAS STONE
Civil Engineering II

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student ID number to be considered for publication. If you have a problem with any of these terms, feel free to write us a letter.

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If you're going to be a bigot, then have the guts to show your face



JONN
KMECH

Leave it to fascists to inject a little humour into the staid process of democratic elections. During Monday's province-wide elections, members of the local chapter of the Aryan Guard demonstrated at Calgary's City Hall against Elections Canada's decision that allows Muslim women to vote while remaining veiled.

Donning ski masks and waving flags, the white supremacists clashed with anti-racism protesters who outnumbered them four to one, resulting in the Aryan Guard being forced to flee in taxis provided to them by police. One protestor, who wouldn't give his name or remove his mask, remarked, "I think people should reveal their full identity when they vote."

First of all, these have to be the most incompetent fascists I've ever seen. They should be protesting democracy itself, instead of the quirky intricacies of democracy. Also, the police had to get them taxis home—did they get a ride to this neo-Nazi rally from mom?

However, it does seem that they have a working knowledge of irony. Who knew that fanatics had such a witty sense of comedic subtlety?

Such a group's existence, though, points to a much more deeply rooted and disturbing problem within our society: white supremacists wearing masks. The government needs to

confront these bigots and tell them that if they're going to march against tolerance at the ballot boxes, they'll have to provide some form of facial identification.

At least Muslim women have a legitimate reason to keep their face covered due to their deeply held religious beliefs—even if veiled voting wasn't something that any of them asked for. But as far as hatemongers go, this shouldn't even be an issue.

The government needs to confront these bigots and tell them that if they're going to march against tolerance at the ballot boxes, they'll have to provide some form of facial identification.

White supremacists have absolutely no problem showing their face to other white supremacists—they just can't do so in public due to their deeply held, quasi-religious beliefs in racist propaganda. Also, in their particular case, the embarrassment and shame of other, unbigoted people finding out you're a cowardly racist.

All we'd need to do to alleviate this is hire another neo-Nazi as an election official to remove your balaclava behind a curtain. This will allow them to identify that you are, indeed, white, and a proponent of a cleansed Anglo-Germanic bloodline. You can then

elect to defile whatever synagogue or set aflame whatever cross you desire, ski mask and anonymity intact.

Elections Canada and the federal government need to work together to formulate an accommodating, multifaceted policy on the facial coverings of segregationists. Yes, it's ridiculous and uncalled for, but it's unnecessary issues like these that our representatives in Ottawa must spend time bickering over in lieu of making actual progress.

So far, their strategy simply doesn't hold water. Two pieces of identification plus a written declaration that you're fighting the hidden Zionist conspiracy won't suffice here. One might think that displaying the swastika tattoo on your Adam's apple or your Imperial Grand Wizard badge, would provide ample evidence that you hate blacks, Jews, and Muslims, but until advanced retinal scan technology becomes available, we'll have to see your face to identify you by the hollowness in your eyes.

The same protestor who wouldn't remove his mask explained, "I might lose my job because these people are vicious when it comes to that kind of thing." Indeed, if the police hadn't intervened to save the Aryan Guard, that increasingly vicious mob of anti-racists could have gotten away with all manners of horrible, violent actions against them—such as hanging them from trees or dragging them down a gravel road tied to the back of a speeding pickup truck. The police may have even joined in, beating those bigots to death with nightsticks, or "accidentally" shooting them dozens of times. Yes, it's fortunate for these white supremacists that we don't live in an era where such hateful ideologies still exist.

Iveson campaign an inspired bit of election magic

Students and alumni alike joined the bandwagon, and their hard work paid off



GRAHAM
LETTNER

Well you did it, Don. You made a monster Monday night victory, and now you're Mr Iveson, Edmonton City Councillor for Ward 5. That's right, Man About Town has become Man About City Hall.

But, wait there's more—much, much more. Your efforts in electioneering have, once and for all, proven that democracy is the ticket for bright, motivated, educated university types to subjugate whole city districts to our capricious will. Or, in your case—since you're a bit more level-headed—the ticket to turn Edmonton into the city Edmontonians deserve.

But before you get used to hangers-on gushing and fawning over you, vainly trying to secure a spot on the City of Edmonton payroll, I have a bone to pick. It's pertaining to comments you made in the *Edmonton Journal* on Tuesday, 16 October just mere minutes after being crowned councillor. The offending comments are: "We said we were going to run hard and run smart, and that's what we did. It wasn't me, it was the team."

Well, shit, Mr Iveson, I think that last sentence qualifies as both bald-face lying and overstating the obvious,

all in under eight words.

You're the former head of the SU's advocacy department, affectionately known as "Biz" from your years managing the Gateway's biz, and the owner of a smile and a wink that make mothers' hearts melt. I'm sorry to burst your false modesty bubble, but dozens of volunteers don't pull out all the stops for some nobody. It was definitely you.

The reality that university students and graduates can haul democratic ass is on its way to becoming a master's thesis.

Of course, it was also the team, the campaign team full of cherry-picked university grads and more than a few undergraduates poached from their studies. Which brings me to the crux of all this: it would very much appear that our university campus is a farm team for democratic dynamism.

First, armed with design skills honed in the recesses of FAB—or during time spent arranging copy for the campus newspaper—there was real talent turning out smart, sharp campaign lit. They crafted a smorgasbord of signs, flyers, and handbills that turned enough heads to cause a minor chiropractic crisis.

Second, there were the logistical wizards who perfected their craft over the spreadsheets and flowcharts of

undergraduate management classes. They didn't just run a tight ship, they sailed the HMS Iveson through the rough waters of the volunteer seas, keeping things on a frugal budget and still having enough left over for celebratory champagne.

The political science majors were put to work strategizing over real-life, real-time problems, putting Hobbes and Locke to work in the world of municipal politics. English majors took messages and spun them into stories that resonated with voters—they also made damn sure *its* was never accidentally *it's*, and vice versa.

The quasi-varsity athletes pulled on their running shoes—or, in one case, in-line skates—and took off door-to-door dropping thousands of flyers in mailboxes all across Ward 5. The social butterflies of today and yesterday took their charisma, firm handshakes, and articulate vocabularies to the streets to do the grassroots door-knocking that gained Iveson votes house by house.

If you haven't caught on yet, Don, you and your team married university talent and democracy and made it tick. The reality that university students and graduates can haul democratic ass is on its way to becoming a master's thesis.

Don, you led a perfect campaign, knocked off an incumbent, and—judging from the photo on page B3 of Tuesday's *Journal*—you definitely got the girl. But you also gave university students and alumni the opportunity to see just how far our skills can go towards making democracy a reality.

Voter turnout a crying shame



ANDREW
RENFREE

In the wake of the municipal election, I hate to say it, but I'm embarrassed to be an Edmontonian. We saw some exciting upsets for council positions and a landslide mayoral victory, but the real news that struck me is that only 26.8 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot.

This poor voter turnout wasn't restricted to Edmonton either. The headline in the *Calgary Herald* on Tuesday declared, "Calgarians turn out in droves to vote." I was then shocked to read in the article that a whopping 30 per cent of the electorate voted. That constitutes "droves"? I guess considering how, in 2004, only 20 per cent of Calgarians voted, 30 per cent is decent by comparison, but it's still nothing to brag about.

Voter apathy has unfortunately become a reality in municipal elections. It really hits home for me this year because of the troubling news coming out of Myanmar over the last month. Protesters there are willing to be beaten, imprisoned, and even die for democracy, and Edmontonians aren't even willing to get off the couch for 20 minutes.

That's disgusting. There are millions of people in the world who would give anything to live in a free and democratic country like Canada, and what's our response? The vast majority of voters stayed home to watch *Dancing with the Stars*.

"It really hits home for me this year because of the troubling news coming out of Myanmar over the last month. Protesters there are willing to be beaten, imprisoned, and even die for democracy, and Edmontonians aren't even willing to get off the couch for 20 minutes."

So why aren't we voting? There are always those who preach the ever-popular "my vote doesn't count" argument. This is a somewhat viable reason in federal elections with 30 million-plus people in Canada and a first-past-the-post system that often leaves large portions of voters unrepresented. But in civic politics, your vote does count. Look at some of the election results this year: in many cases, a few hundred votes separated new councillors from the also-rans.

Furthermore, the issues that a city government deals with—transportation, affordable housing, snow removal—affect your life immensely. In federal politics, issues like the war in Afghanistan or gay marriage really only affect some Canadians. Civic politics, on the other hand, have tremendous impact on your daily life.

Another excuse I heard from some of my co-workers was that they didn't know where to vote or who was running. Hello, people, this is the *Information Age*. Even Osama Bin Laden has Internet access, presumably. The city of Edmonton website was very useful to this end, with a handy tool that found the closest poll in each ward and a page with links to all the candidates' websites. Information was readily available. It was even a nice fall day on 15 October, so I can't understand the overwhelming level of apathy at the polls.

Political experts will argue that because the mayoral race was uninspiring, people weren't motivated to vote, but aren't the huge issues facing Edmonton in the near future enough to spur voting? The next three years could be the most significant in Edmonton's history. We're in the midst of an unprecedented economic boom, and landmark decisions will have to be made about downtown revitalization, a new arena, LRT expansion, river valley development, relationships with surrounding communities, arts and culture, public safety, policing, and much, much more. There will be a lot of controversial decisions made, and I refuse to believe that only 26 per cent of Edmonton cares about these issues.

It's at times like this when I think of the adage, "if you don't vote, you can't complain." Well, rest assured the three quarters of Edmontonians who didn't vote *will* be complaining over the next three years. When it takes extra time to get to work on overloaded buses, when gang violence creeps into suburbia, and when new downtown condos get approved, you can bet we'll hear the complainers—it just astounds me that they didn't want to be heard at the polls.

The right to vote is one of our greatest privileges in Canada—it's just a shame that only a quarter of us seem to realize that.

Too many elections spoil the sauce

Every Tom, Dick, and Harry organization is trying to get me to vote, and with that much on my plate, it's just not possible for me to make informed choices



VICTOR
VARGAS

While elections are a very important part of democracy, having too many is like eating too much ice cream: you'll get hypothermia and die a horrible death. And right now, the amount of elections on the average Canadian's plate is maddening.

Just by being an average U of A student, you'll have survived the Student Council by-elections and the municipal elections in the past month. Then, you'll have to be prepared to vote in the provincial elections and the Student Council elections after that. Of course, there's the possibility of a federal election that can pop up at any time, like an outbreak of democratic herpes.

Every club that you're a member of has an election that needs your vote, and any nationality you have may allows you to vote in that election. For instance, Poland has set up voting booths internationally, and Polish election fever has now gripped Britain of all places. Even your church may require you to put in a vote, even if it's for something lame like the Christmas committee.

All of these voting rituals would be easy if there was some kind democratic standard, but every single miniature democracy has reinvented the wheel and made a unique and different system.

For example, look at the position of president. Aside from being the "leader," seemingly every elected president has a vastly different purpose in every society, with varying powers.

With politics being pushed on all of us 24/7, responsible voters are being embittered towards other ideologies.

Some presidents have a veto; others don't have a vote because they chair meetings. There are presidents that choose staff, where other presidents require executive approval. All of this is subjective to the society that you're participating in and vastly changes the kind of person you want in that position, meaning in order to be a responsible voter, you have to understand the political processes of each organization you choose to vote for.

But perhaps the worst part about the number of elections is the saturation of politics. At least when there was a long

break between elections, people could go about their days without hearing a talking head blasting out insane rhetoric like "the left are all pinko commies" or "the right are selling out the nation." But now, where there's an election around every corner and a federal election can spring up at any moment, every day is campaign day. And as our American neighbours have proven, every dose of politics brings out the worst in people.

Even when Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize, the right-wing pundits couldn't stop for a moment to say "Good for him, he's brought honour and respectability to our country," because it risks conceding points to the Democrats. Instead, they can only bash him and claim that he didn't deserve the award in the first place. And it's all because partisanship trumps being a good person. After all, it's for the greater good.

With politics being pushed on all of us 24/7, responsible voters are being embittered towards other ideologies. I remember a time when I could have good and intelligent conversations with other people, with different opinions, without it descending into a screaming fest of "right-wing conspiracy" and "liberal media bias." I would like to be able to just vote once or twice every year so that I could make an informed decision instead of asking my magic 8-ball, but when every day is an election day, that's all I've really got time for.

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